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Governor of Louisiana

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Director

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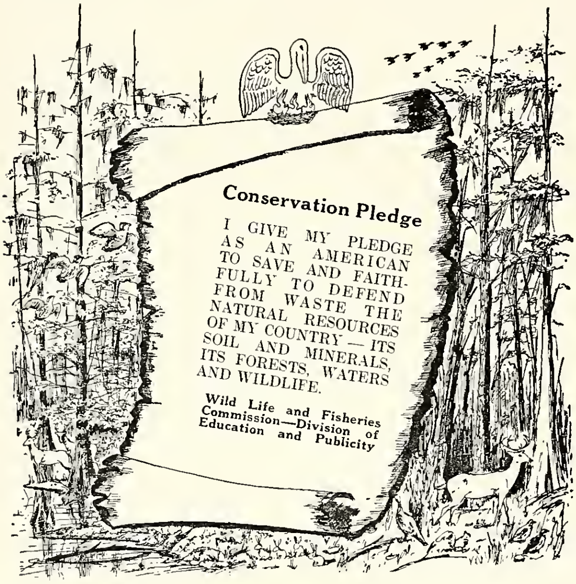

Conservation Pledge
I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY — ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE.
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission—Division of Education and Publicity

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Vol. 11, No. 9

EDITORIAL

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COVER

TARPON TOP SPORT AT LOUISIANA FISH RODEOS

By Rudolph Easterly, *Director*
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

RUDOLPH EASTERLY

In making the announcement of the 1959-60 hunting seasons, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission would like to declare its policy with respect to the establishment of boundary lines and other regulations for deer and other game species. Deer population segments are growing rapidly in some areas, while they are static or declining in other areas. These facts are due to good or poor local protection, good or declining range conditions, and various degrees of annual harvest of deer. Accordingly, after carefully considering all the information, suggestions, and requests available to us, the regulations for the 1959-60 statewide hunting season for most resident game species and some migratory species have been adopted and, in our opinion, in the interest of the game and the most people. The allowable framework for waterfowl and snipe has not been made available to us yet. It should be available in the near future.

Boundaries for the various subdivisions affecting deer hunting were based upon generally well recognized natural or artificial landmarks, such as streams, highways or railroads. Hunters should be able to find these boundaries readily on the basis of the detailed descriptions and the pocket maps which will be made available. It will be the hunters' responsibility.

This commission is trying to provide the maximum amount of hunting opportunities for the state's hunters within the limits of good management and other factors to be considered in fixing hunting regulations. Accordingly, some areas have been opened for 15 days to permit *still hunting only* of deer. This will provide considerable deer hunting opportunity for many hunters. In these areas, if dog hunting had been permitted, it would have been necessary to limit the hunting period to about three days, or to curtail hunting entirely. In view of the somewhat indiscriminate dog training law which permits the training of dogs during closed seasons without recognizing the need of unmolested nesting and fawning periods and other associated factors, it, nevertheless, applies to closed seasons. Provision has been made in the law for this commission to limit hunting to *still hunting only* in those parts of the state where, in our opinion, it is necessary. Careful consideration has been given to this proposal. Recognizing the need for providing hunting opportunities as well as the fact that the deer populations in these areas could be hunted in this manner without hurting them, we have agreed to provide the hunters with this opportunity and seek their cooperation in not hunting or training dogs in these areas during this period. Violation of these regulations shall constitute a violation of the provisions of the law. Without this cooperation, it may be necessary to sharply limit seasons in these areas next year or omit them altogether until the deer populations recover. Thus, we solicit the complete cooperation of all hunters in practicing good conservation of our wildlife resources so that more generous hunting opportunities can be made available in future years.

Also there are two other most important aspects to the hunting picture, namely: safety and trespassing. We are told by those expert in gathering statistics that 80 per cent of all hunting trips throughout the United States are made on private lands. Landowners report that a small persistent percentage of hunters trespass, trample crops, handle both fire and firearms carelessly, and flaunt the letter and spirit of the game laws. Logic tells us that unless hunters can curb the persistent minority of these violators of the rules of sportsmanship within their ranks landowners will bar their gates to future nimrods.

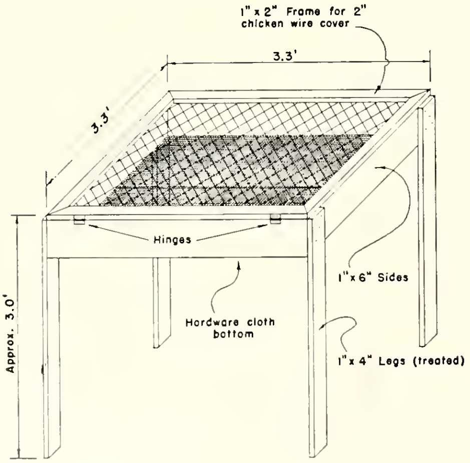
Oak Mast Boon To Wildlife

Jack O. Collins

Game Biologist

Acorns are one of the most important wildlife foods in Louisiana. It is a known fact that around 96 species of animals eat them. Deer, squirrels, quail, turkeys, waterfowl, hogs, many kinds of birds, coons, flying squirrels, and rodents such as rats and mice are some of the better known animals that readily eat acorns. Oak mast has long been recognized as a significant wildlife food since it is rich in oil and starch.

Intensified forest management in recent years, especially in the piney woods, plus the great dependence of many game species upon acorns brought to light the need for information on yields of acorns, factors affecting these yields, and utilization of acorns. Sportsmen and professional people in game management and forestry have become greatly concerned over the problems involved. Often times when a hunter walks through piney woods and sees a hardwood girdled he thinks that the game will completely disappear and becomes antagonistic towards the landowner. Eliminating hardwoods from pine sites is better known as T. S. I. (Timber Stand Improvement). The various methods of hardwood eradication are common knowledge and will not be discussed here. The forester employed by private industry, small landowner, governmental agency, or whoever conducts T. S. I. operations does not necessarily destroy wildlife habitat by getting rid of some undesirable oaks. It may certainly be of benefit to both game and forest interests if a sufficient number of oaks and understory vegetation are left in the timber stand. Another factor to be pointed out is that pure pine stands cannot sustain a wildlife population of any appreciable size.



Game management technicians recognize that upland or "scrub" oaks and other currently unmerchantable hardwood species are a serious problem in pine management throughout much of the south. For example, a U. S. Forest Service bulletin published in 1955 stated that more than six million acres of Louisiana pine sites need timber stand improvement work to eliminate undesirable hardwoods.

Many forest land owners and timber management people are interested in leaving oaks in their forests for the specific purpose of benefiting game animals.

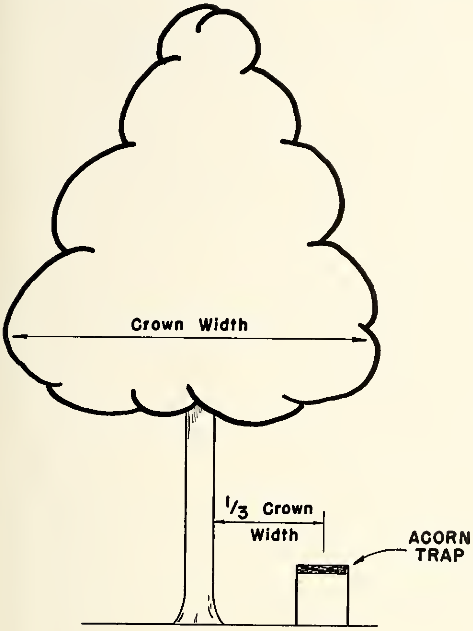
In the bottomland hardwoods of Louisiana, timber stand improvement is being conducted but to a lesser degree than in the upland regions. However, it has been found that an oak released from competition will become a dominant, more vigorous and healthy tree. One of this type will bear more mast than it would have as a tree grown in denser stands having more competition for soil nutrients, water, and sunlight. Thus, if understory vegetation were left in the stand good hardwood management would automatically become good game management.

The Pittman-Robertson Section of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission initiated the Oak Mast research project in 1950. Originally, two areas were selected for study. One was on the Red Dirt Game Management Area in Natchitoches Parish; the other was on the Catahoula Game Management Area in Winn and Grant Parishes. Both are on lands of the Kisatchie National Forest. In 1955 the project was expanded to gather information on trees located in the parishes of Bienville, Union, Concordia, Allen, St. Landry, and Iberville. Data for the past two years has been collected from Morehouse Parish.

Most commonly occurring oaks were selected for study. Trees in the red oak group being studied are blackjack oak, water oak, willow oak, sandjack or bluejack oak, southern red oak, nuttall oak, and obtusa oak. Those in the white oak category include post oak, cow oak, white oak, and overcup oak. White oaks require one growing season to mature fruit; whereas, red oaks require two seasons.

Objectives of the investigation are: (1) to determine mast yields and any cyclic production characteristics that the oaks may have, and (2) to correlate mast production with tree crown size, bole diameters, age, tree stand densities, and timber management practices.

Seed or acorn traps one-fourth milacre in size are used to measure mast yields. Depending on the size of the crown either one or two traps is used under each tree. Traps are located at a distance of two-thirds of the crown radius from the base of the tree. Adjacent to each trap an area of like size is staked off for the purpose of recording acorn usage by observing tracks and other signs. Weekly visits are made to each trap and open quadrat from the first of September to the end of acorn fall that is usually in late January or early February. All trapped acorns are removed on each visit. Collected acorns from each tree during the fall and winter period are used to determine total mast yield. These air-dried acorns are also weighed and tested for soundness. Any weight references mentioned, hereafter, will be air-dry matter. Production of each oak tree is calculated according to the following formula. Yield = .2596 Crown Radius^{2}X number of acorns collected from 1 trap or .1298 Crown Radius^{2}X number acorns collected from 2 traps.



Part of initial work on the project was to take certain measurements on each tree that included crown radius, diameter at 4½ feet from ground, age, and height. At five year intervals crown and diameter measurements are repeated.

Bottomland species, (water oak, willow oak, nuttall oak, overcup oak, cow oak, and white oak) produce more acorns than upland species (post oak, blackjack oak, sandjack oak and southern red oak). The Southern Red Oak grows on either site, but most trees under study occur in the uplands. Regardless of the species, a tree shows consistency in its manner of production; that is, if results are high one year the same trend will continue on productive years. Upland or scrub species are characterized by smallness in size. This is partly the cause of lower yields. However, productive capabilities are exemplified by one blackjack oak on Red Dirt that is 21″ in diameter and a healthy vigorous tree. Over the nine year period average number of mature acorns yielded by this tree was 5,649 acorns.

Acorns vary considerably in size. Individual trees of a species produce small acorns while others produce acorns two or three times as large. The significance of this is apparent. A tree yielding few, but large, acorns may bear as many pounds of fruit as one yielding more, but smaller acorns.

Some average yields and weights of oak mast from various sections of the state are presented herein. This data is taken from the years 1955 through 1958. On Red Dirt, blackjacks bore 686 acorns (1.71 pounds), sandjacks—192 acorns (0.27 pounds), southern red oak—856 acorns (1.01 pounds), cow oaks—431 acorns (3.84 pounds), post oak—199 acorns (0.50 pounds), water oak—1,587 acorns (3.65 pounds), and white oak—447 acorns (2.32 pounds). Studies in Union parish indicated the following: southern red oaks yielded 932 acorns (1.25 pounds), white oak—919 acorns (3.09 pounds), cow oak—283 acorns (3.19 pounds), post oak—472 acorns (0.76 pounds), water oak—1,419 acorns (3.57 pounds), and overcup oak—1,633 acorns (4.89 pounds). Con-

Commission biologist checks height of trees in mast study.

C. L. Hollis, management area supervisor checks acorn trap.

cordia parish results showed nuttall or striped oaks bore 626 acorns (2.38 pounds), overcup oak—130 acorns (0.25 pounds), water oak—38,667 acorns (93.35 pounds) and willow oak—9,074 acorns (20.60 pounds). In St. Landry parish willow oaks bore 5,354 acorns (10.90 pounds), nuttall oak—1,267 acorns (8.45 pounds), and overcup oak—2,046 acorns (3.70 pounds).

Substantial acorn yields cannot be expected below the age of 25 years on the oaks being studied in Louisiana. Many factors influence the minimum age at which seed production begins. One of these is competition. Apparently, crowded trees are later in beginning production.

Even during bumper crop years for any species all trees of mast-bearing size and age do not produce. It appears that only about 60 per cent of trees belonging in the white oak category are productive in good years. About 90 per cent of the various red oaks show productiveness in the better years.

Oaks are cyclic in their productive characteristics. No species can be expected to produce a crop of acorns every year. Numerous weather factors influence mast yields. Late spring freezes occur commonly in Louisiana. When this happens white oaks yield few mature acorns, or none at all and red oak production is absent the year following a freeze of this type. A good game management practice would be to leave a variety of oaks in the timber stand since one type usually complements another in yielding a crop of seed.

Best seed production comes from healthy, vigorous growing trees with well-developed crowns and larger diameters.

Acorns are subject to heavy damage by weevils. Over the entire state, the percentage of sound acorns was high in 1958. This was in direct contrast with the previous year when a heavy weevil infestation resulted in an abnormally low percentage of sound acorns. From Red Dirt it has been determined that over the nine-year period about 25 per cent of all acorns reaching maturity are unsound.

In several states research carried out by wildlife technicians on acorn yields and utilization illustrates the importance of acorns in the diet of many game species. This information was gathered in various ways. Primarily, the data were obtained through analysis of stomach or crop contents depending on whether the animals investigated were mammals such as deer and squirrels or birds such as quail or turkey.

The following paragraphs will be a discussion of individual game species and their relations to use of acorns.

Deer—Christisen and Korschgen of the Missouri Conservation Commission writing on this subject in 1955 presented some interesting details. Analysis of 440 deer stomach samples from the Missouri Ozarks region during the period August, 1948 to May, 1952 showed the importance of acorns to deer. Results showed that acorns first available in quantity during September were heavily utilized by deer during the fall and winter, and comprised significant portions of the spring diet. Percentages of the total volume of food comprised by acorns each month ranged from 0 per cent in June to 62.4 per cent in October.

Based primarily upon late fall and early winter samples, acorns made up 80 per cent of the food consumed by the deer examined during 1948; 7.3 per cent in 1949; 32.6 per cent in 1950; 44.3 per cent in 1951; and 53.9 per cent in 1952. It appeared that the deer stomach analysis provided a reasonably accurate key to acorn abundance, since consumption of acorns by deer was in relative proportion to acorn abundance. It was found that acorns, when available, were the principal fall and winter food of deer throughout this game animal's range in Missouri.

In further emphasizing the value of acorns to deer, Nichol in 1938 had the following to say about experimental feeding of deer in Arizona, "during a fall of acorns deer may eat little else, and because they respond so quickly to changes in diet deer have been recorded which have gone from thin, dry-haired condition to sleekness and good flesh in fifteen days when there was a plentiful supply of acorns".

In this state as well as other Southern pine and bottomland hardwood forest regions, deer consume large quantities of forage such as the current growth on Greenbrier, Yaupon and many other kinds of plants. But this game species eagerly seeks and readily takes acorns, when available. Browsing usually falls off when acorns are available in quantity. This is important since the amount of available browse on any given area is a very significant factor in the management of a deer herd.

An illustration close at hand is on the Red Dirt Game Management Area where research conducted by the Pittman-Robertson section of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in 1958 and 1959 showed the direct relationship between acorns and browse plants. Oaks yielded a bumper mast crop in the fall of 1958—this was something that had not occurred since 1955. The browse surveys conducted in the early part of 1959 on the area showed considerably less use on the preferred plant species than in the past several years.

Some feeding studies have revealed that deer can maintain their weight on a well-balanced diet of browse, but Reid and Goodrum (1957) pointed out that some form of concentrated food such as acorns preceding and during the breeding season greatly improved the chances of a good fawn crop. Often on our southern forest ranges when sizeable deer herds prevail there exists a shortage of high quality fall and winter plant foods.

Although acorns are an important supplemental food in the diet of this big game animal, deer herds in Louisiana must be managed on the basis of available deer browse.

Squirrel—Undoubtedly, hunters, foresters, game technicians, and other interested groups, recognize the importance of acorns to squirrels. One squirrel requires roughly one and one-half pounds of food per week. In addition to its main diet of acorns and nuts, supplemental foods commonly eaten by this most sought after game species are seeds, such as pine mast, buds, roots, leaves, fleshy fruits, insects and even bird eggs.

Oaks in the timber stand are essential for the maintenance of a squirrel population. T. S. I. in the pinelands is a controversial subject that has received

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Manage Wetlands For Waterfowl

Carl H. Thomas, *Biologist*
Soil Conservation Service

Large seed heads here are Echinochloa walteri, duck millet, which are excellent duck foods. Soil Conservation Service technician Paul D. Landy and Hester Broussard, marsh manager, examine seed heads. Area was semi-dried by pump in spring to allow seed germination.

A RECENT SURVEY in the United States showed that one person in every five, age 12 and over, hunted or fished; and that there were three billion dollars spent in pursuit of these activities. To break it down further, a total of 119 million dollars was spent on waterfowl hunting alone. These figures point up the fact that hunting and fishing in the United States is increasing in popularity each year as more and more people take to the field.

In view of the large increase in hunting and fishing over the years, the practice of wildlife management has grown to meet the demands for better hunting and fishing. Research has been and is still being conducted on most phases of game animal life from behavior to food habits. The objective of most wildlife research and study, however, is habitat improvement on the ground. The abundance of all game species is determined by how well the land supplies the essentials of life, mainly food and cover.

Proper management of waterfowl foods and waters can mean profit or satisfaction or both to the landowner. Many sportsmen are cooperating with landowners in habitat improvement. The demand for good hunting areas is high. Lease values are increasing every year. The landowner who likes to hunt reaps the reward from the harvest, or he may have friends or business associates who enjoy the opportunity to go afield. Good land management and wildlife management go hand in hand.

The Soil Conservation Service, as part of its assistance to Soil Conservation Districts, helps individual land operators plan and apply soil and water conservation practices which increase and improve wildlife habitat. These practices are part of a complete soil and water conservation plan. Waterfowl management is one phase of the technical assistance offered to the landowner. Research is being conducted constantly by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to improve techniques of waterfowl land improvement.

Wetlands can be managed and improved to benefit waterfowl. Some areas need no specific management *at times* when water conditions happen to be ideal for desirable plant growth. While on the same hand, many coastal marsh areas, even with an abundance of vegetation, are of little value to waterfowl. You can have too much vegetation, and the wrong kind, or not enough. Water level control, burning, and controlled grazing are of great importance in the marshlands. Water control by low levees, weirs, tide gates, and the like, enable management of the vegetation so as to increase food plants, and it assures water over the food when the ducks arrive. Salt water intrusion can be reduced by the aforementioned controls. Stabilization of water in salt marsh ponds helps produce widgeon grass which is an important waterfowl food. Water manipulation by control structures allows a draw-down in May to expose the top crust of soil. This late shallow drying allows choice duck foods, wild millet and smartweeds, to germinate and grow while suppressing many inferior species. Marsh areas in good condition to grow wild millet (*Echinochloa walteri*) and smartweed will produce from 300 to 600 lbs. of duck food per acre. Burning and controlled grazing reduce heavy growths of vegetation and create more open water for ducks while encouraging the growth of better duck food plants.

Food management by the above means is ideal where natural waterfowl habitat exists. But in regions where natural habitat is short or does not exist, an agricultural habitat can be managed.

Winter-flooding of harvested rice fields makes the 100 to 200 pounds per acre of waste grain available to ducks. These fields often have grass and weed seeds available too. When properly flooded, such fields feed large flights of ducks. In years of insufficient fall and winter rains, pumping is necessary to put and hold the water level at a 1 to 12 inch depth, which is necessary for duck feeding. Cattle grazing or hay baling on these fields, of course, reduces the amount of

About 400 blue and snow geese and ducks circling a 40 acre browntop millet field flooded with water as recommended by Soil Conservation Service technicians for waterfowl food planting. Several thousand ducks and geese used this field during the winter of 1958-59.

waste grain for waterfowl. Rice fields managed to feed ducks should be flooded by late October so as to provide feeding areas for the first flights of ducks which arrive. Progressive flooding of fields prevents large populations of ducks from depleting the food supply in a short time. The water should be held on the field until our ducks return northward to nest. (March)

Another type of manageable habitat is woodland duck ponds. These are not year-long ponds as the oak areas can be flooded only during the late fall and winter months. They offer good land use in bottomland areas. Winter flooding increases the growth of hardwood trees and does them no harm. A flat area of several acres that can be flooded with shallow water, 6 inches or more, is selected. The impoundments are generally created by constructing low dams in the flats or sloughs selected. They are built in time to catch the rains of fall and early winter. When rains are light or delayed, water is sometimes pumped into the diked areas from wells, bayous, canals, or creeks. A drain system is necessary to remove water in the spring. These ponds attract mallards and wood ducks which like to feed on the mast from oaks and beech. Small areas (one-half to several acres) within the woodlands can be cleared for the planting of additional food if desired. Soil Conservation Service technicians aid in the selection of sites, design construction, and suggest the plant and water management needed—as part of their assistance to land operators.

Where no natural agricultural habitat exists, or if such areas are to be supplemented, the creation of duck fields may be desirable. This task is undertaken with plans in mind to grow agricultural plants which furnish food for ducks.

It has sometimes been said mistakenly that "food in any form is superior to a real shortage of good food". Food plantings should not furnish food in just any form. They should provide choice, attractive, abundant, and nutritious foods if they are to improve or enlarge the supply.

Browntopmillet (Panicum ramosum) is a plant which seems to "fit the bill" as far as ducks are concerned. Browntop has been around for ages. Its popularity for wildlife food has only in recent years increased. It is a desirable plant for ducks since it will grow on most tillable soils in Louisiana; produces a heavy crop of seed; is not a pest plant; and is both nutritious and attractive. Browntopmillet has one limiting factor, however, wetness. It will not survive standing water for periods exceeding 24 to 48 hours. It has grown very well though, on wet soils which are sufficiently drained to maintain them dry for 60 days.

Recent field trials by Soil Conservation District cooperators showed that the plant produced averages of 1735 pounds of seed to the acre. In a 40 acre field near Lake Charles this past winter, over 7,000 mallards and 1,000 blue and snow geese found a home. In an 18 acre development near Bastrop, 1,000 mallards fed to their hearts content. Thus far in these field trials, browntopmillet has not failed to attract and feed ducks where it was planted and flooded for that purpose.

Browntop can be planted in rice fields, flat areas below farm ponds, open sites in woodland duck-ponds, and other areas where the soil is adaptable and a source of water is available to flood it during the winter.

The seed is commercially available and can be planted any time during the last two weeks of June or the month of July. Even early August is not too late. It should be planted at the rate of 20 to 25 pounds to the acre. The plant matures a crop of seed in approximately 60 days after planting.

A well prepared seed bed is necessary and at least 200 pounds of 10-20-10 or its equivalent is best for good seed production. The seed should be drilled one

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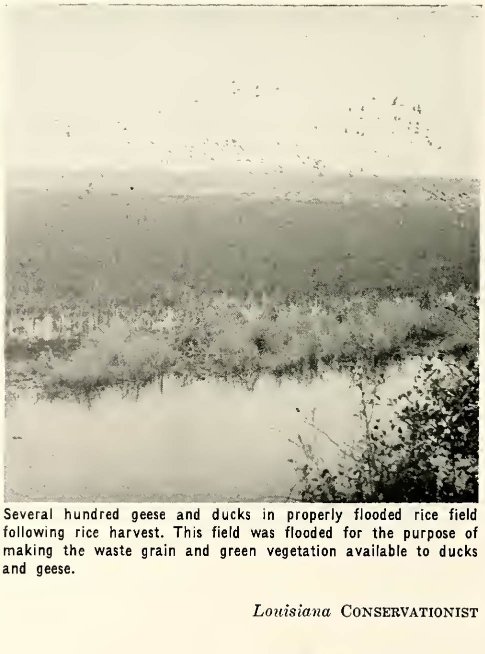


Several hundred geese and ducks in properly flooded rice field following rice harvest. This field was flooded for the purpose of making the waste grain and green vegetation available to ducks and geese.

Wildlife Check Stations

Joe Herring & James Taylor
Game biologists

WHILE MOST hunters in the past have relied on "scuttlebutt" rumor and barbershop talk for their estimation of the prospective game scarcity or abundance during the coming hunting seasons, many are learning to rely on trained biologists and check stations for their estimates. As an example we'll take "Jake", a typical sportsman in search of information.

Jake walked out of the local barber shop scratching his head. Talk in the shop was that dove and squirrel season should be closed. "There just isn't enough game," said one prospective customer. Another said, "Why do they want to shoot those doe?" Then Jake remembered his visit with Frank Sikes local farmer. Farmer Sikes told Jake that he had more quail and doves on his farm this year than in past seasons. Jake scratched his head, "Man this is confusing, everyone has a different answer to the seasons." Seems like you can talk with ten hunters and get ten answers.

It was then that Jake remembered the talk given before the Louisiana Wildlife Federation by Mr. E. R. McDonald, Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on "Sound Game Management Is The Answer". While Mr. McDonald referred mainly to deer in his address, Jake realized that such management practices as field bag checks, tagging systems, banding, field studies and other biological techniques are applied to other game species for a better understanding of populations, breeding conditions, range, etc., so Jake decided to go home and wait for the first day of hunting season then try things for himself and not depend on local talk.

The conversation that Jake had heard he realized was made by men who had no sound basis for their convictions.

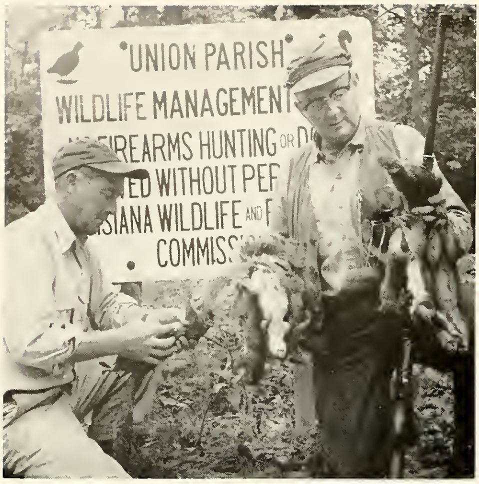
"Biologists use many methods to study and census game populations, some are: covey counts, form or nest studies, aerial counts, feces counts, bed counts, browse and vegetational counts, road counts, call counts, *check stations* and numerous other techniques. Biologists do not depend on one method alone to determine the productivity of a season. Although biologists can obtain indications before the season opens by the above methods, the *hunter's bag check or check station* information is the most *exact method* of measuring the year's wildlife production. Not only can the biologist measure the year's production but he will also receive valuable information on deer herd ages and condition, squirrel reproduction and carry over, and local and migrant production of doves. Biologists also receive other valuable material for the study of food habits, parasites, body and growth measurements and the like. This data may be obtained best at *Checking Stations*.

Lee Griffis, Rt. #3, Bastrop, La., stopped by a roadside check station to have his 16½ lb. turkey checked by biologist. Turkey had a 54" wing spread and 9" beard. This turkey was killed in Morehouse parish.

Biologist Clyde Harrison field checking a 9-point 4½ yr. old 235 lb. deer killed on the Union Parish Game Management Area by R. H. Debose. Valuable information on herd management is obtained in this manner.

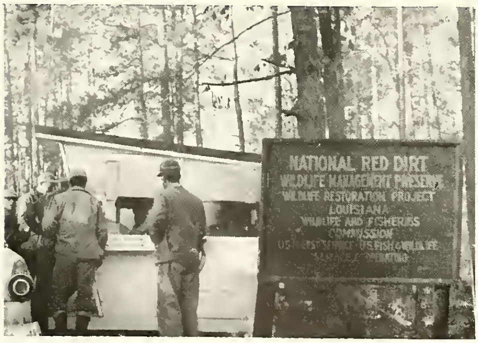
"Occasionally a hunter feels that he is being inconvenienced by stopping at a *Game Checking Station* to have his kill checked. Let's think this thing over; the biologist is working toward a better season and with the hunter's help and consideration this may be accomplished. Each year personnel of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission make field checks on several thousand squirrel, quail, deer, waterfowl, rabbits, doves and other game species. Through these checks a measurement can be made of the year's wildlife production.

"Where are *Check Stations* operated? On all of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Game Management Areas and along roads heavily used by hunters getting in and out of other sections. *Check Stations* on Game Management Areas are to issue permits to hunters going into the area to hunt. In this way the number of hunters on the area will



Game agent James Hamilton checking a successful hunter after his day on the Union Parish Game Management Area. Sex, age, species and reproduction are being checked.

Two successful squirrel hunters stopped at a wildlife check station to have their kills checked. Such cooperation is needed from hunters for the perpetuation of their sport.



Hunters being issued permits on the Red Dirt Game Management Area. In this manner Biologist will know the number of hunters utilizing the area, which is a safety factor, and will be abe to check all game removed from the game management area.

be known at all times; this is also a safety factor. As hunters check out, their kill can be checked and information obtained as to age, sex, size, growth, reproduction, breeding conditions and hunter success. The biologists may discuss with the hunters factors concerning the hunt. The hunter may express his thoughts for such areas and possibly the establishment of more areas for public use.

"*Checking Stations* along roads where travel speed is restricted will stop many hunters. *Check Stations* are also placed within the corporate limits of towns where due to reduced driving speed, fewer signs are needed. Such *Check Stations* can give general information to the biologists on game populations, reproduction, growth, age, sex ratios, estimating game harvest and other information needed in sound game management.

"*Wildlife Check Stations* give much of the research data needed for sound game management and this research pays off. Some years ago a leading industrialist remarked to the effect that less than five per cent of their company's research paid off. "But," he hastened to add, "its that five per cent that keeps us in business." And so it is with most fields of human endeavor. As Dr. J. P. Linduska stated, "There's scarcely an activity that can't be streamlined, made more economical and effective, or even replaced with something better, through research." Through research today's farmers have at their fingertips hybrid seed corn, powerful fertilizers, chemical sprays and other scientific materials that make crop production more profitable. Most of these advances are new—within the last few years. During these same years game management has made giant strides in advancement. Although hunting is as old as man himself, game management as we know it today is new and *Wildlife Checking Stations* play a very important part in scientific game management.

"Remember—when you stop at one of the many *Wildlife Checking Stations* operated by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission you are helping yourself and your fellow hunters. After all, the biologists are working for the sportsmen and the perpetuation of our hunting heritage. *If he should make improper recommendations, he is jeopardizing his own profession.*Many things such as animal or herd conditions, food or browse, the hunter and other factors are carefully considered before the biologists make recommendations for the coming season. It must be remembered that seasons are not thought of and recommended the last minute. So when you stop at a *Wildlife Check Station* you will leave a much more informed sportsman. The biologists will show and explain to the interested sportsman how he may age deer by dental wear, quail and doves by feathers, turkey by leg measurements and feather markings. You have made a worth while stop and contributed much valuable information to better your hunting. Remember the entire procedure takes but a few minutes and you are on your way. See you at a *Wildlife Check Station* this fall!"

Bears are near-sighted because of their long-time habit of feeding with noses to the ground. Their keen senses of hearing and smell make up for this deficiency.

Pilot Crawfish Farm

DUE TO THE EFFORTS of State Representative Robert Angelle, of Breaux Bridge, the division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission was given $10,000 by the 1958 legislature to establish a pilot crawfish farm to be established near Henderson, Louisiana, Director Rudolph P. Easterly announced.

The crawfish experimental "farm", which is said to be the first of its kind ever established in the world, is expected to bring out many heretofore unknown data on the crustaceans and will be of great value to the industry according to marine biologist Percy Viosca, who will conduct the crawfish study project experiments under the direction of James N. McConnell, chief of the division.

In his report to McConnell, Jesse J. Guidry, of Cecelia, (unofficial supervisor of the crawfish project) and to Representative Angelle, Viosca outlined the following purposes of the project.

The crawfish study will include:

A Pilot Crawfish Farm to be located near Henderson, Louisiana.

Collections of crawfish specimens are to be made at least bi-monthly from the floodway area. All collections will be dated, kept in the frozen state, and sent in that condition to the biological laboratory at the Wild Life and Fisheries building, 400 Royal street, New Orleans, Louisiana, for biological study and evaluation.

Interviews with crawfish catchers will be made. The main purpose of these interviews will be to get the value of the industry at the producer's level. These interviews will supply the average daily catch in bushels and pounds, the average number of traps per man, the average catch by months throughout the season, and other pertinent data.

Interviews with crawfish dealers and shippers will be made for the main purpose of establishing the value of the industry at the dealer level. These interviews will supply the average quantities handled daily throughout the season, the nature of the marketed product (sacked alive, shipped frozen, shipped picked and processed, etc.).

Data at the retail level will be needed. Most of this data will probably be gathered by the central office.

"We need all the data we can get as to the method of handling, losses through death and spoilage, etc., so that corrective measures can be suggested," Viosca said.

Viosca stated that among the first questions asked by prospective crawfish farmers will probably be the following:

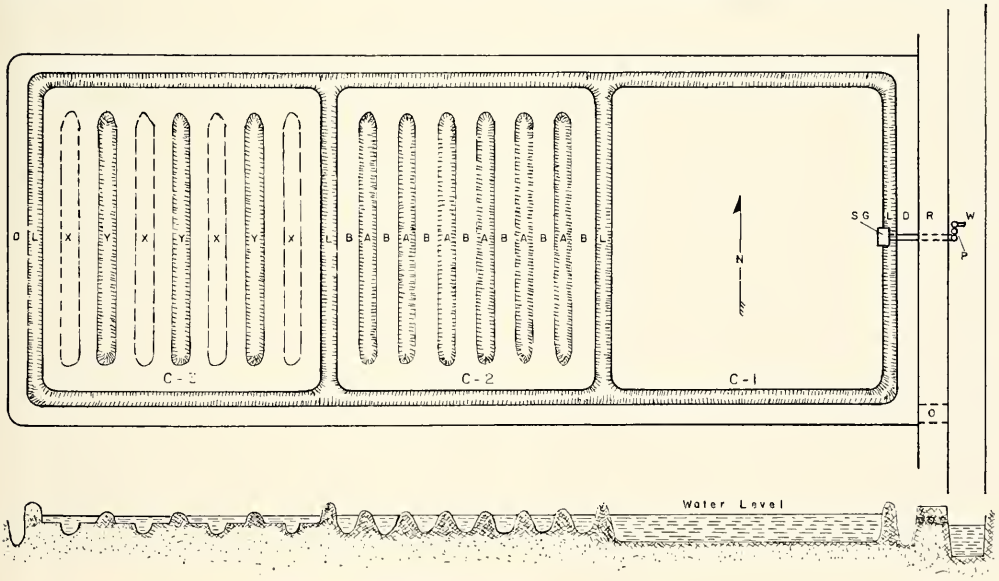
What size should the culture units be for greatest efficiency?

What depth of water is best for crawfish?

What about the shoreline and its preparation?

Should crawfish ponds be fertilized and how?

What types of vegetation are best for food, shade,



Diagrammatic sketch of Pilot Crawfish Farm. Plan view (above) section view (below).

Fig. 1: C-1, open water culture unit; C-2, furrowed culture unit; C-3, trench and spoil bank culture unit. A, hills; B, furrows; X, trenches; Y, spoil banks; D, outer ditch; L, outer levee; R, road; O, outlet under road; W, water supply canal; P, motor driven pump; SG, sand-gravel filter box.

Fig. 2: Vegetative stages of delta duck potato. Winter form (left); summer form (right).

protection?

How many breeders must be used, and when must I stock them?

Is supplemental feeding necessary, and what are the best feeds?

What are the natural enemies of crawfish, and what must be done to control them?

How many pounds per acre per year can one expect to harvest?

Will such a venture be profitable?

It will be the purpose of the proposed Pilot Crawfish Farm to answer the above questions and many others, according to Viosca.

Crawfish sometimes thrive in artificial impoundments, such as rice fields, irrigation ditches, and reservoirs, but only when certain conditions are met. Changes of water level must favor, rather than interfere with mating, spawning, and nursery activities. Water drawdowns must prevent a build-up of predators and competitors by bringing about their periodic destruction.

"For the Pilot Crawfish Farm, the irrigation system and its management must, in a general way, follow the practices of rice culture. However, the flooding and drawdown periods must be modified to correspond more closely to the requirements of the crawfish, rather than the rice plant. These requirements have been determined to a large extent by earlier studies. Plans will be somewhat flexible so that refinements can be made as experience dictates. Fences will be provided to prevent promiscuous entry of most animals. Study areas protected by predator-proof structures will be set aside in each culture unit.

"Predators will be kept under control as experience dictates. Bullfrogs, turtles and watersnakes will be thinned out by shining, shooting, and the use of grabbers. Mammals will be controlled by trapping, shooting and/or poisoning. Birds will be discouraged or driven away by means to be devised, as requirements dictate. The stomachs of all animals killed will be preserved for biological study, and records will be kept of the species and their stomach contents.

"Crawfish are essentially shallow water and shoreline animals. They must either dig holes in mud banks, or in the bottoms of drying ponds to protect their eggs and young. Therefore, considerable attention will be given to the water level, and for adjusting its maximum and minimum heights. It happens to be a geometrical principle that the larger the pond, the shorter the length of its shoreline in proportion to its area. Smaller units will, therefore, provide more protection for the egg-carrying mothers than larger units. This, however, might be a disadvantage, for too much shoreline in proportion to total area could conceivably bring about an excessive population, especially in the absence of predators. The result would either be stunted individuals or excessive cannibalism, in either case reducing the weight, and possibly the quality, of the product.

"The main difference between the engineering of a rice field and that of a crawfish farm will probably be in the development of inner structures. It is not known whether or not rows of hills and furrows will increase production, as compared to open pond culture. For the initial project, therefore, three types of culture units are planned as are to be seen accompanying this article:

1. An open water unit engineered on the principle of a rice field.
2. A unit with inner hills and furrows engineered as if for sugarcane culture.
3. A unit with small trenches alternating with their spoil banks, but separated from the banks by strips of undisturbed bottom.

"As pounds per acre per year is the yardstick by which crop production is measured, the crawfish culture units will be an acre each. Three of these will be combined into a single pilot farm, where variables can be tested side by side. The farm will be surrounded by a ditch, the spoils from which will be used for the outer levee. This outer levee will be three feet high, sufficient to maintain a two-foot depth of water when necessary. This depth will tend to stabilize water temperatures during the winter months. The inner hills and the alternating furrows or trenches will be run in a north-south direction. This is to take advantage of the east-west movement of the sun, and thus prevent the formation of localized hot spots.

"Tops of the inner hills will be two feet above the pond floor, so that they can be covered with water to prevent the development of unwanted vegetation. The water can be lowered as required, leaving the hills exposed in accordance with the seasonal requirements of the crawfish.

"Intake water will be passed through a gravel-sand filter box to remove undesirable aquatic creatures or their eggs. Provision will be made to drain each pond as required.

"Waterplants which provide food and cover for crawfish might be desirable. As plants of the delta duck potato (see illustration) seem to meet these requirements in the wild state, they will be used in the initial experiments. The fall and winter form of the plant has under-water, blade-like leaves which support innumerable algae and tiny animals which form a balanced diet for baby crawfish. The axils of these leaves provide excellent hiding places, and thus tend to reduce cannibalism. The spring and summer form of the plant has overhead leaves which project above the water surface and provide shade without cutting off the oxygen supply. This form produces the seed which develop in the summer. After seeding, the summer leaves die and sink into the water. They then provide a rich source of food for the young crawfish. Other aquatic plants, including the water hyacinth, will be utilized in supplemental feeding.

"Most crawfish eggs hatch towards the end of summer and in early fall. The young grow rapidly throughout the fall. At this stage, they must remain in water so a high water level will be maintained at this season. Growth is slowed down during cold weather, but is resumed, even in winter, during periods of southerly winds and on days of warm sunshine. Rapid growth is resumed as early as February, and harvesting is usually possible throughout the spring. Various devices for harvesting the crawfish crop will be experimented with. All will permit the escape of specimens under commercial size.

"Mating begins in the spring and continues for several months, or as long as additional females attain maturity. The adults dig holes and tunnels for pro-

(Continued on page 28)

Official Louisiana Bird

THE BROWN PELICAN

Pelecanus Occidentalis

Hannah Yates

THE FAMILIAR BROWN pelican is the official bird found on the flag and seal of Louisiana. Brown pelicans breed in the Island groups and on the mud lumps of the Mississippi River. If Mangrove bushes are not plentiful, the bare ground sufficies for building nests of rough materials such as sticks and weed stalks, and between March and June, the females lay usually one to three white eggs, which are often stained brown through contact with materials of the nest. The period of incubation is about one month.

An awkward fellow on land, the pelican has very strong wings with a spread of six feet. They are covered with thick plumage of ashy buff on the upper wings with brown tips. Under parts of the wings and body are grayish brown. The top of the head has a brown stripe extending down to the shoulders. The bill is 18 inches long and six inches deep up next to the head, with a sharp hooked end for grasping fish. The lower part sometimes referred to as the chap is most extraordinary, for hanging to the edge is a pouch reaching the whole length of the bill to the neck, and is mainly for storing digested food for their young after it has served as a scoop in securing the catch. When necessary, the bill can hold several quarts of water until the fish are separated by a sort of straining process, then to be eaten by the adult bird and later regurgitated back into the pouch for the young. But when not in use, the bird has the power to retract this bag up into the hollow of the chap, which is not covered with feathers, but with a short downy substance as smooth and soft as satin. The pelican's very strong feet, which have four toes webbed together, enable him to stand on a piling, or projection over the water, for hours in order to sight a school of fish which he darts upon with the swiftness of an arrow despite the size of his body. Returning to a solid perch, he very leisurely devours the fruits of labor and toil, after digestion, during nesting time, its is brought up into the pouch to feed the young.

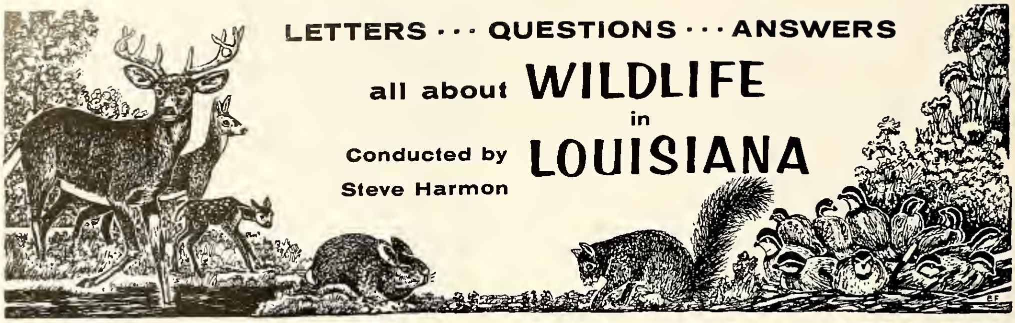
When first hatched, the young are a most unattractive sight, bare, brown creatures slick and leathery in appearance, for they have no down at all. For its very large head, its eyes are comparatively small with a rather sad melancholy expression denoting somewhat the disposition of the bird. It seeks solitude and will sit for hours on a high perch until forced to go in search of food. Brown pelicans colonize when on nesting territory and sometimes gather together when attacking schools of fish. It is this lonely habit of seeking retirement that explains the passage in the Bible (Psalms: 102:6) in which the Psalmist sits in solitude and bewails the sad condition of this country, and while so doing, he likens himself to the lonely pelican.

However, in spite of this, we find accounts of admirable qualities. Pelicans do become domesticated and friendly, living many years. They seem delighted in the company of man, also show an appreciation of music, stretching out their long necks they turn their heads from side to side lending an attentive ear to harmony.

Care should be taken to protect these residents of the Louisiana Coast as much as possible, severe storms, hurricanes and floodings destroy the nests and scores of baby birds, thus reducing the pelican population greatly. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission's biologists made a recent survey and though the count was low, however, they predict that with a minimum of storm activity the birds will make a comeback.

The brown pelican's food consists of fishes and most of them are not fit for human consumption, so in that field he cannot be considered in competition with the fisherman. It obtains its food by diving, sometimes from a considerable height. Its plunge takes it beneath the water. This feat is accomplished by diving with the wind. While underneath the surface, it performs the neat trick of making a complete turn and emerges on the surface headed against the wind. Louisiana has another pelican called the white pelican and although it breeds in the interior of North America, usually on islands in lakes, it is found in our state almost exclusively along our coast, where it frequents the lagoons and other bodies of water. It will be seen only as a transient in the northern part of the state.

Like its brown brother, it is a rather silent bird in adult state, sometimes giving utterance to a low grunt or croak. Both animals derive the first part of their names from their color and the second part from their bills, which the Greeks thought resembled an axe for which the Greek word is *pelecus.*



LETTERS · · · QUESTIONS · · · ANSWERS

all about WILDLIFE in LOUISIANA

Conducted by
Steve Harmon

Dear Editor:

I notice the dove seasons is in split season, why is this?

It is open too early for north Louisiana. It should not open until at least September 20. I have found young doves in nest past years up in the middle of September. Doves are like pigeons, they raise more than one crop a year. *Yours truly, R. S. Fortson*

P.S. I do not hunt, but I hate to see the old birds killed and leave young ones to starve. R.S.F.

The split season for dove hunting, with the first part in early September, is necessary because there is always a large scale movement of doves from Louisiana between September 15 and September 25 each year. If hunting were delayed until the end of September, many areas in the state would hold only a small fraction of the dove population that existed in early September.

While it is true that some doves are still nesting in September, it is also true that doves nest in October; and probably every month of the year with the possible exception of December and January. However, the majority of dove nesting activity occurs in the five-month period from April through August. It appears that most nesting attempts, which are made prior to April 1 and after August 31 have much less chance of being successful because of natural conditions.

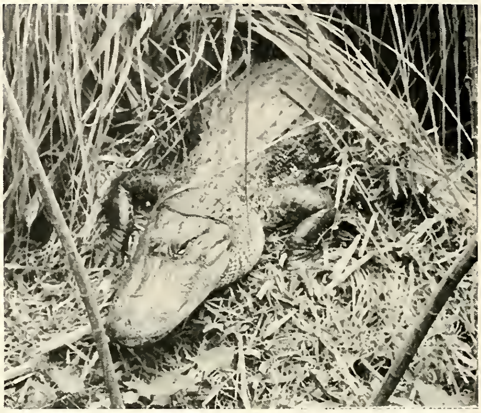
Based on information gathered during the Southeastern Cooperative Dove Study, which was conducted by all the southeastern states during the years 1948-1954, approximately 50% of the annual dove population is lost to unknown causes, or natural mortality. With this information in mind, it seems that the extremely small loss of nestling doves, as a result of September hunting, is negligible.

John D. Newsom, Federal Aid Coordinator

Dear Editor:

I was very interested in your July-August issue, and particularly in the "Alligator in the Marsh" article. The alligator has always gotten the short end of the conservation stick throughout the Southern states, and it needs articles of this type to come to its defense. The situation is a little ironic, since the alligator is certainly one of the most unique and interesting—as well as valuable—inhabitants of the Southern wetlands. In both size and numbers these animals are rapidly vanishing from the wildlife scene. This is unfortunate not only because of the value of their hides, but also because they are a useful means of keeping down populations of gar and turtles that are harmful to game fish.

Besides this, I am one of those individuals that think an alligator in its natural setting is as esthetically satisfying a sight as any other wild creature. A large specimen might not be pretty but it is certainly impressive.



This photo of a female alligator draped over nest was taken on the edge of Bird Lake sanctuary near Avery Island, in Iberia parish, by John Cockerham. Note how sacks of jaws are puffed out. Mother 'gator uses these to collect air to make a loud hissing sound or warning in defending her nest. Nest is made of sticks, weeds and other vegetation mixed with muck. Photographer Cockerham said the alligator was not in sight when nest was discovered, but the noise in arranging for the picture attracted her attention and she crawled atop the nest to protect it. 'Gators lay from 30 to 100 eggs—all in one night. Eggs, about the size of a mallard duck's, are hatched by the combined heat of the sun and heat produced by the decaying material with which the nest is built.

I would like to know (1) if any steps are being taken to enact the legislation that your article recommended and (2) whether there is anything that an ordinary citizen can do to help the passage of a bill giving alligators a badly needed break. Thanks. *Sincerely, Donald Schueler, 624 St. Peter St., New Orleans, La.*

Dear Mr. Schueler:

We have been very much surprised at the great amount of interest that has been expressed by various people from different parts of Louisiana in favor of rebuilding our rapidly dwindling alligator populations.

One very prominent legislator, who is very familiar with marsh wildlife, has indicated an interest in more adequate laws. As yet, however, no definite plans have been made along this line to the knowledge of this commission.—Richard K. Yancey, Chief, Refuge Division.

Dear Editor:

Last Sunday we banded 331 ducks (mostly moulters), which has been, by far, our largest day's work. Ducks are quite hard to find in any numbers, for the water was just as scarce as we heard it was, right at the time when the ducks most needed it. Some of the ponds which have supplied numerous broods during the past several years are so near dry that the ducks wouldn't occupy them this year; still others (many others) are even planted to wheat or oats this year.

We are supposed to be starting the banding program for diving ducks, mainly canvasbacks and Red heads, this year, since last year saw the completion of the 5-year program on puddle ducks (of which the mallard was of main interest). Our crew is supposed to be located in the heart of the canvasback and Red head breeding grounds, yet we have found practically none of them, and much fewer of other species than in previous years. Our crew chief, Walter Price, of Suffolk, Virginia, has had two years of this, prior to this year. He said that the average brood encountered two years ago was 11 to 14; last year it was 8 to 11; occasionally 12. This year, we have found nothing over 7, the average being 4.

In spite of the fact that we are finding no divers here (and none have been found by any of the other crews, to date) I feel sure that they moved on to areas of more plentiful water—yet, neither the planes nor the ground crews can find them in any numbers. The federal boys are very alarmed over this; so are the Canadians. Unless I am very badly mistaken, Fred Glover told me that Canada had cut its bag limit in half. I may have misunderstood him on that, for it is my impression that they have been awaiting the outcome of the banding operation, in recent years, before setting their seasons and limits.

If they do cut their's so drastically, it is generally believed, up here, that the W. S. will leave the bag limit at 4, but allow only *one* or *no* Can's or Red's to be taken, and cut the season length very drastically. Unless these birds *have been merely displaced* by water shortage and haven't been located, the situation is just as critical as you have heard.

To date, after 15 days of banding, we have banded 7 coots, 115 mallards, 25 pintail, 120 G. W. Teal, 287 B. W. Teal, 29 shovelers, 30 Baldpate, 1 Redhead, 26 Canvasback, 2 scaup, and 1 bufflehead—a total of 644—which, from all reports puts our crew in the lead, by some 300 birds, over all other crews. —*Dick Roberts.*

Mr. Roberts is a biologist with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. He, along with technicians from other states, is in Canada for the purpose of banding ducks. Such information as contained in his letter, led to the short 1959-60 waterfowl season in Louisiana and other states in the Mississippi flyway.

Dear Editor:

Blue-winged teal commonly nested in Cameron parish this year for the first time in the memory of those living in the area. Nesting in previous years was indeed a rarity. The photo of the clutch of eggs surrounded by down was taken on April 25, 1959. It was located on the Grand Chenier ridge near the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Other nests were reported by local people and found the same day.

Those ducks that have commonly nested in Louisiana in the past are mottled ducks (coastal marshes), fulvous tree ducks (rice fields), and wood ducks (in the woodlands area of Louisiana).—*Yours very truly, Richard K. Yancey, Chief, Refuge Division.*

FISH SHOCKERS ARRESTED

Two Kentwood men, T. D. Allen and Zenas A. Chambers, have been arrested for shocking fish in the Amite river, according to Julius Book, acting chief of the law enforcement division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission.

The pair when arrested were in possession of a shocking machine and twenty pounds of catfish. Allen has been arrested previously for shocking fish and also for hunting turkey in closed season, Book said.

Dear Captain New:

I just finished reading about your accomplishments in the July-August conservationist. Congratulations and keep up the good work. We need more men of your calibre in our public office.

Every once in a while I hear of fish shocking operations going on in the Pierre Part and Belle River area. The operations are probably mostly done in the Morganza spillway area. There is nothing that I would like to see better than some of them caught and severely penalized for their actions to help discourage such activities.

I know that when an area has been shocked it must make all legitimate fishing bad for a while. Truly I believe that a quiet investigation of the above area might pay off. Sincerely yours, For better fishing, H. J. Simoneaux, 916 Mulberry St., Donaldsonville, La.

Are You a Rabbit Hunter?

Are you a rabbit hunter? If so, this article is directed to you. The Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is in need of information concerning rabbit kill data during the coming season. The only practical way to secure this information is to have rabbit hunters submit season kill records and location of hunts.

Since hunter-kill information will be valuable in helping determine management practices, it is of importance to you, the rabbit hunter, to help secure this information. All that will be required of you is to submit a complete record of your hunting success at the close of the season. All forms and any other necessary material will be furnished.

If you are willing to keep a record of your hunts during the coming season, please submit your name and address to Jack Sims, Rabbit Study Leader, Box 405, DeRidder, Louisiana.

1. Hunting parties debark at the cabin grounds after having been taken to Pass-a-loutre on commission patrol boats.

WATERFOWL PARADISE—

Pass-A-Loutre

Waterfowl hunting on the Pass-a-Loutre Shooting Ground during the 1959-1960 season will be handled in the same manner as last year.

The fee for the two-day hunt will be $5.00. Hunts will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday and Saturday & Sunday of each week. This system has proved to be very helpful because it gives the ducks a relaxation period from the gunning pressure before each hunt. Morning shooting only is permitted on the entire area.

Waterfowl retrievers will be permitted as part of the public shooting program again this season. A total of 47 dogs were used by hunters last season on the area. Anyone who has a retriever and plans to make a Pass-a-Loutre hunt this season is encouraged to bring his dog along.

Marsh conditions look very favorable for the coming season. There is an abundant supply of waterfowl food plants and the roseau cane used by the hunters for blinds is in very good condition, due to the heavy rains that fell on the delta area this year. Numerous earthen plugs have been replaced in ditches along the passes after being removed last spring to allow fresh river water to flow into the marsh ponds. Additional work has been done on most of the nine hunting camps and they are in good shape for the coming season.

Another successful duck season is anticipated for

2. Hunters, having been supplied pirogues and decoys make for the duck blinds in the early morning.

3. Some hunters like to build their own duck blinds although there are many on the shooting grounds.

8. There's no doubt about it there are ducks at Pass-a-loutre as you will see as these nimrods land at Venice and make for home.

7. This boatload of hunters are on their way to the "happy hunting grounds" where they will be supplied cabins, pirogues, decoys, kitchen utensils during their stay.

this winter on Pass-a-Loutre and those who may be interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to hunt on this 66,000 acre tract of marshland should refer to the next issue of the Louisiana Conservationist.

President Eisenhower has signed into law a bill introduced by Congressman Henry S. Reuss (Wis.) to permit the feeding of government-owned surplus grain to ducks and other migratory waterfowl.

The new law makes permanent a temporary duck-feeding program, also sponsored by Reuss, authorized three years ago.

Major purpose of the program is to prevent crop depredations by migratory waterfowl through making surplus grain available for waterfowl feeding.

Under the law, the Secretary of Interior can make surplus grain (declared unfit for human consumption) available to federal and non-federal conservation agencies, and to private conservation organizations, for feeding migratory waterfowl.

"Establishing this feeding program on a permanent basis will help save our waterfowl resources, help save farmers from crop losses by depredations, and help save tax dollars by getting surplus grain out of storage," Reuss said.

6. Although dogs are now allowed on the preserve the good old fashioned method of "push-polin'" is usually used for retrieving.

4. Decoys are set out before retiring to the duck blind.

5. The decoys worked. This fellow at top of picture came too close.

Commission Sets Hunting, Trapping Seasons

THE LOUISIANA Wild Life and Fisheries commission, at its regular monthly meeting held Tuesday, July 28, announced the statewide hunting and trapping seasons for 1959-60. A closed season was declared for bear throughout the state, and game management area seasons were also set. The turkey season will be announced at the December meeting, Rudolph P. Easterly, commission director, said.

The 1959-60 statewide hunting seasons are as follows:

DEER: *7 to 58 days, depending upon the area, from November 14 through January 10.*

- A. Bag: 1 legal deer per day; 2 legal deer per season.
- B. Legal bucks defined as those deer having antlers (spikes) of 3 inches or more in length, and will be the only legal deer except as otherwise specifically provided for in specific areas.
- C. Any deer are defined as all deer with the specific exception of spotted fawns, which are protected.
- D. *Still Hunting Only* prohibits the use of dogs for hunting deer in areas so designated, including Game Management or Refuge areas except where specifically permitted. In all other areas, deer hunting will be permitted with or without the use of dogs.
- E. Summary of areas and number of days for each. Detailed descriptions of areas will be distributed by news release and the publication of the map and regulations.

1. *Still Hunting Only,* 15 days, November 14-28. To include part or all of the following parishes: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, De Soto, Sabine, Natchitoches, Vernon, Beauregard, Grant and Rapides, (including a 4-day any deer season November 25-28 only on Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier parish after 10 days of bucks only hunting).
2. 15 days, November 14-28, to include parts of Washington and St. Tammany parishes.
3. 32 days, November 14-December 15, to include part of St. Tammany parish.
4. 58 days, November 14-January 10, including part or all of the following parishes: Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin, Assumption, St. James, Ascension, Livingston, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, Lafourche and Terrebonne (including a 5-day any deer season on Avery Island in Iberia parish from January 6-10, after 53 days of buck hunting only).
5. 7 days, December 1-7, to include part or all of the following parishes; Grant, Ouachita, Caldwell, Jackson, Winn, La Salle, Catahoula, Franklin, Richland, and West Feliciana.
6. 14 days, December 1-14, to include part or all of the following parishes: Natchitoches, Claiborne, De Soto, Sabine, Vernon, Winn, Bienville, Jackson, Caldwell, and La Salle.
7. 32 days, December 1-January 1, to include part or all of the following parishes: Natchitoches, Winn, Grant, La Salle, Union, Morehouse, Richland, West Carroll, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Concordia, Franklin, Catahoula, Avoyelles, and St. Landry.
8. 41 days, December 1-January 10, to include part or all of the following parishes: Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Assumption, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

A very liberal deer season awaits the Louisiana hunter.

QUAIL: November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)-Feburary 15; bag, 10 per day, possession, limit, 20.

RABBIT: October 17-February 15; bag, 6 per day; possession limit, 12.

SQUIRREL: October 17-January 10; bag, 6 per day; possession limit, 12.

TURKEY: Season to be set at December or January meeting. FRAMEWORK: March 1-April 30.

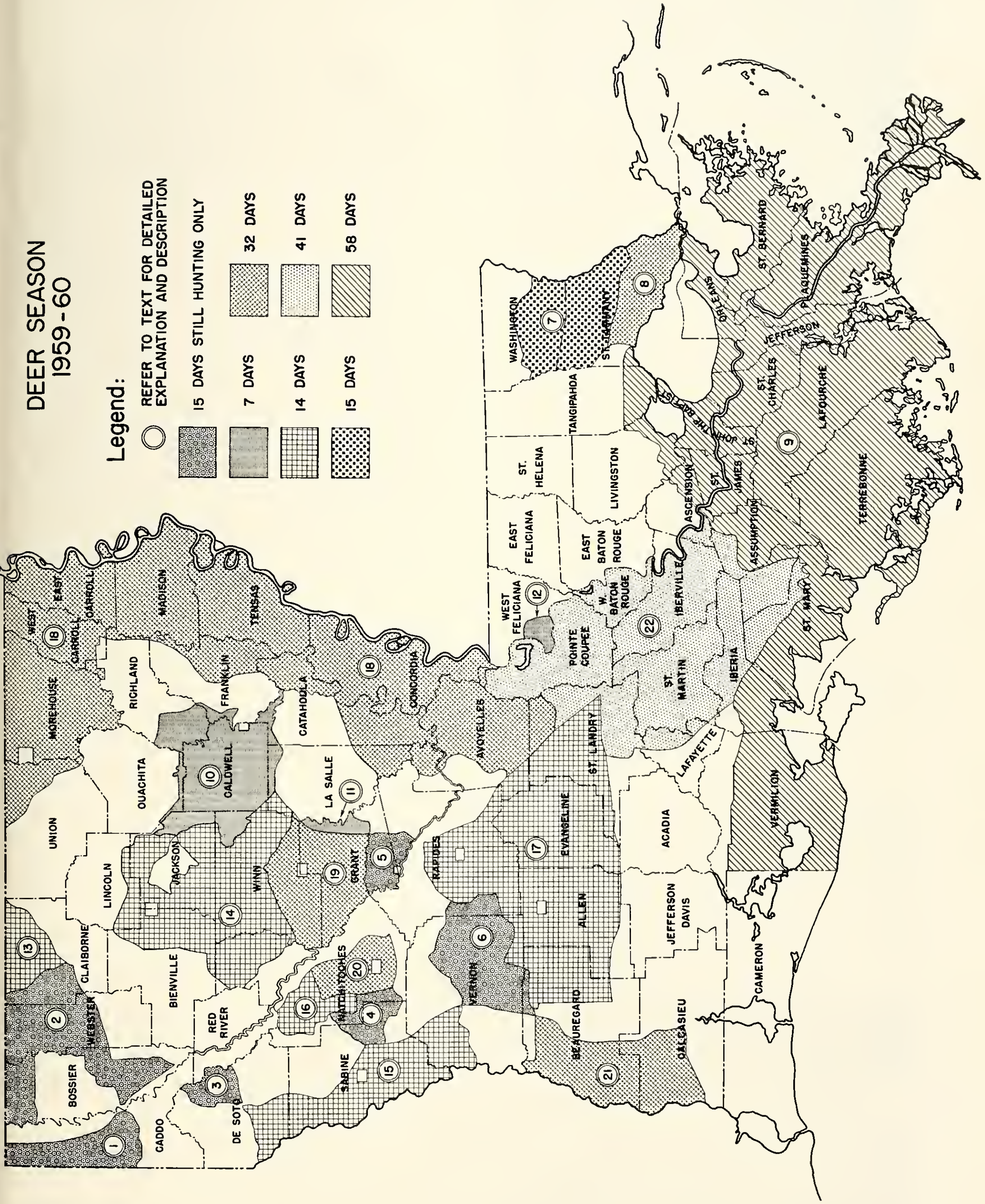
DOVE: 2 periods totaling 65 half-days, September 5-20, 1959; November 26, 1959-January 13, 1960; bag, 10; possession limit, 20.

RAIL AND GALLINULE: 50 consecutive days: October 3-November 21; bag, 15; possession limit, 15.

WOODCOCK: 40 consective days: December 7-January 15, 1960; bag, 4 possession limit, 8.

The 1959-60 hunting season for Game Management Areas are as follows:

All scheduled hunts will be managed and controlled by permits and check stations, being limited to still hunting only, except as otherwise specifically provided. Individual printed maps will be available to the hunters at permit stations on each area. Hunters will exchange hunting licenses for permits where required, said licenses to be returned to the hunters at permit stations where area entered following the hunt. All hunts will


DEER SEASON
1959-60
Legend:
REFER TO TEXT FOR DETAILED EXPLANATION AND DESCRIPTION
15 DAYS STILL HUNTING ONLY
7 DAYS
14 DAYS
15 DAYS
32 DAYS
41 DAYS
58 DAYS
CADDO
BOSSIER
WEBSTER
CLAIBORNE
UNION
MOREHOUSE
WEST CARROLL
EAST CARROLL
LINCOLN
OUACHITA
RICHLAND
MADISON
BIENVILLE
JACKSON
CALDWELL
FRANKLIN
TENSAS
DE SOTO
RED RIVER
WINN
LA SALLE
CATAHOULA
CONCORDIA
SABINE
NATCHITOCHES
GRANT
RAPIDES
AVOYELLES
VERNON
ALLEN
EVANGELINE
ST. LANDRY
BEAUREGARD
CALCASIEU
JEFFERSON DAVIS
ACADIA
LAFAYETTE
CAMERON
VERMILION
IBERIA
ST. MARTIN
POINTE COUPEE
WEST FELICIANA
EAST FELICIANA
ST. HELENA
W. BATON ROUGE
EAST BATON ROUGE
IBERVILLE
ST. MARY
ASSUMPTION
ASCENSION
LIVINGSTON
TANGIPAHOA
WASHINGTON
ST. TAMMANY
ST. JAMES
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ST. CHARLES
LAFOURCHE
TERREBONNE
JEFFERSON
ORLEANS
ST. BERNARD
PLAQUEMINES
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be gun hunts except as otherwise specified. Statewide hunting regulations apply to these areas except as otherwise specified.

JACKSON-BIENVILLE: DEER: Bow and arrow, 10 days, *any deer,* Nov. 13-22; gun, 1 to 5 days; *any deer,* or 350 deer; Nov. 26-30.

SQUIRREL: 14 days, Oct. 17-30.

UNION: DEER: Bucks only, 3 days, Nov. 28-30.

SQUIRREL: 14 days, Oct. 17-30.

SABINE NO. 1: DEER: in same manner and concurrent with parish west of U.S. Hwy. 171. With or without dogs.

SABINE NO. 2: DEER: 2 days, *bucks only,* Nov. 21 and 22, 1 day, *any deer,* Nov. 23 (to be concurrent with *any deer* hunts on Red Dirt, Catahoula and Evangeline).

SABINE NO. 2: QUAIL: 15 days split, Dec. 10-14, Feb. 6-15, in designated parts of area. Dogs permitted.

EVANGELINE: DEER: Bow and Arrow, 10 days, *any deer,* Oct. 31-Nov. 9; gun, 2 days, *bucks only,* Nov. 21 and 22; gun, 1 half day, *any deer,* end 12:00 noon Nov. 23.

QUAIL: 9 days split, Dec. 18-20, and last two weekends Feb. 6-8, and 13-15. Dogs permitted.

SQUIRREL: 3 days, 1st Saturday, Sunday and Monday of open season, Oct. 17-19.

GRANT-RAPIDES: DEER: 3 days, *bucks only,* Nov. 14-16.

SQUIRREL: 10 half-days from 5:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Oct. 17-26.

CATAHOULA: DEER: 5 days, *bucks only,* 1 day *any deer.* Nov. 14-16, *bucks only;* Nov. 21-22, *bucks only;* Nov. 23, *any deer.*

SQUIRREL: 5 half-days from 5:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Oct. 17-21.

RED DIRT: DEER: 5 days, *bucks only,* 1 day *any deer;* Nov. 14-16, *bucks only;* Nov. 21-22, *bucks only;* Nov. 23, *any deer.*

QUAIL: 15 days, split, Dec. 10-14 and Feb 6-15. Dogs permitted.

CALDWELL: DEER: 3 days, *bucks only,* Dec. 11-13.

SQUIRREL: 7 days, Oct. 17-23.

CHICAGO MILLS: DEER: 3 days, *any deer,* Dec. 1-3; 7 days, *bucks only,* Dec. 4-10.

SQUIRREL: 7 days, Oct. 17-23.

WEST BAY: DEER: 3 days, *bucks only,* Nov. 28-30.

THISTLEWAITE: SQUIRREL: 14 half-days, mornings only to 12:00 noon, Oct. 17-30.

ZEMURRAY: DEER: 3 days, *bucks only,* 100 hunters per day, half of hunters to be limited to Tangipahoa and other adjoining parishes, remainder may be selected statewide. Hunters to be selected by drawing after application to this or District office; transferable permits are to be issued by mail in advance of hunts. Due to limited number of hunters allowed; commission employees will be ineligible to hunt on this one area.

The 1959-60 trapping seasons are as follows:

MUSKRAT: December 1 to February 25, 1960.

MINK: November 15 to January 10, 1960.

BEAVER: January 1 to January 30, 1960. (Open only in East Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, and Washington parishes.)

ALL OTHER LEGAL FUR BEARERS: November 15 to February 15, 1960.

ALLIGATORS: Coastal parishes only. (St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion, and Cameron.) Outlawed and may be taken at will, May 1 to Aug. 31.

Open Season, March 1 to April 30, and September 1 to October 31.

Closed Season, November 1 to February 28.

All Other Parishes: Permanent Closed Season.

(It is unlawful to take or possess the eggs of alligators; alligators or their skins under two feet in length in any parish of this state.)

Biologist of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission checking and weighing waterfowl at Check Station on Wham Brake. Valuable Flyway information is obtained from these stations.

Grand Isle Rodeo Registration Broken

The twenty-seventh Grand Isle Tarpon rodeo, held July 16, 17, and 18, annual fishing classic of the Gulf waters, was an outstanding success having attracted, besides thousands of on-lookers, 1768 registered and active participants, according to Urban Wilkinson, General Chairman and charter member of the group of sportsmen who stage the event.

"The affair was not only the largest ever held but also attracted people from all over the United States and foreign countries, and I think our rolls showed practically every state in the Union represented at the event," Wilkinson said.

"This year's rodeo was the object of many curious and amusing observations," the veteran of all Grand Isle rodeos and longtime deep sea fisherman said. There were an unusual number of barracuda, jackfish and marlin taken and at one point in the rodeo Wilkinson reported that at a spot 35 miles out the sportsmen were catching sailfish while "still fishing". The fish were taken on white trout bait and this is the first incident of this kind, he recalls.

"Naturally, everyone didn't catch fish. We ran through waters teeming with mackerel and they wouldn't bite on any lure or bait. Robert O. "Bob" Goodykoontz, vice-president and general sales manager of the Esso Standard Oil company, an ardent rainbow trout fisherman, fished from dawn to dusk for three days and didn't have a bit of luck until he finally hooked a huge shark that gave him a workout he will never forget," Wilkinson said.

Mrs. George Paulat, wife of a veteran speckled trout fisherman, was Baton Rouge's only Grand Isle Tarpon rodeo winner. The 6 lb., 8 ounce fish, second largest in rodeo history, was taken on the second day of the rodeo under one of the big Fuchon oil platforms, some 20 miles to the west of Grand Isle. Mrs. Paulat, popular locally in flower show circles, proved herself most adept at the angling art by subduing this big one in about 7 minutes. It was netted by Joe Howell, Jackson, Louisiana, rancher, who was in the 19-foot sea-skiff at the time. She won a handsome trophy and a 5½ h.p. outboard motor among other prizes for the "big tussle". Mrs. Paulat was also tied with three other women for "queen fisherette." —*Photo by Bob Scearce*

The official results of the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo are:

TARPON:

John R. Lauricella, Jr., Harahan, La., 144½ lbs.
Calvin Pelas, Nairn, La., 139½ lbs.
Dick Bohn, Gretna, La., 120¾ lbs.

There were 18 tarpon in all, with none entered on the final day of the event. First tarpon caught: J. R. Chadwick of Plaquemine, La., 118 lbs.

BLUEFISH:

Leonard Levy, New Orleans, La., 3 lbs., 4 ozs.
Calvin Pelas, Nairn, La., 3 lbs.
Calvin Pelas, Nairn, La., 2 lbs., 13 ozs.

BONITO:

Mrs. Lester Plaisance, Golden Meadow, La., 20 lbs.
Tie for second: William A. Langhoff, New Orleans, La., and Sal Balsano, New Orleans. Balsano won the flip of the coin—19¾ lbs. Langhoff was third.

KING MACKEREL:

Buddy Pons, New Orleans, 41 lbs.
Lynn Barnfus, New Orleans, 40½ lbs.
Buddy Pons, New Orleans, 39 lbs.

SPANISH MACKEREL:

Leonard Fuher, Alexandria, La., 5¼ lbs.
Michael Carollo, New Orleans, 4 lbs., 15 ozs.
Arthur Gautreaux, Cut Off, La., 4 lbs., 14 ozs.

REDFISH:

Sylvia Ann Theriot, Denham Springs, La., 43 lbs.
John Fischziur, Empire, La., 42 lbs.
Dale Messina, New Orleans, 40½ lbs.

SHEEPSHEAD:

Lionel Pitre, Montegut, La., 8 lbs., 8 ozs.
Lionel Pitre, Montegut, La., 8 lbs., 3 ozs.
Pat Burke, Sr., Metairie, La., 7 lbs., 8 ozs.

SPECKLED TROUT:

Louisiana First in Shrimp Production

Louisiana led the nation in shrimp production for the first seven months of 1959 by more than one million pounds over other shrimp producing states, according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The harvest figures showed Louisiana with a take of 23,999,7000 pounds, Texas with 22,990,000 pounds, and Florida with 20,917,000 pounds. All are "heads off" figures.

Percentage wise, Louisiana production was up 112 per cent for the first seven months, Texas off 20 per cent, and Florida off 33 per cent as compared to the same period last year, according to George Snow of the Service.

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SNAPS AT TARPON RODEO

(1) Mrs. Lester Plaisance, wife of the mayor of Golden Meadow, who with her husband have been winners of many trophies at present and past rodeos was presented with the "best woman fisherman's" award by Ruth Mitcham who is seen holding the handsome silver serving tray. (Left to right) Herbert W. Maitrejean, Mrs. Plaisance, Dr. Don Peterson, Mayor Maitrejean, and Urban Wilkinson. (2) Frank Vonder Haar presents Dr. Peter Salatich, Jr., with the trophy for the largest tuna taken, 104 pounds. (3) Leonard Levy is presented the A. L. Landry trophy by Parker Saussy for the largest bluefish caught, 3 pounds, 4 ounces. (4) Mrs. Jimmie Toups, of Galiano, is presented with the trophy for the largest tripletail by Sheriff William Coci, of Jefferson Parish . . . fish's weight, 39½ lbs. (5) Major General Ray Hufft (right) congratulates John Lauricella, Jr., on winning the Hugh M. Wilkinson Barataria trophy for bringing in the largest tarpon, weight 144 pounds, length 82 inches. (6) Jimmie Arnoult presents Harry Smith, of New Orleans, with the trophy for the largest sailfish, 70¼ lbs. (7) Leonard Fuher, of Alexandria, gets the trophy for the largest spanish mackerel, 5¼ lbs., from Frank Vonder Haar. (8) Jimmie Meriwether, of Shreveport, took the award for the largest white marlin, 66¾ inches. Presenting the cup were Urban Wilkinson and Jimmie Smith, center, donor of the trophy. (9) Jefferson Parish President Charles Spencer presents J. R. Chadwick, of Plaquemine, with the trophy award for having placed fourth in the tarpon event with a 118-pound silver king. Chadwick also won the trophy for having caught the first tarpon of the rodeo. (10) Henry Herr, chairman of the prize committee, presents Dick Bohn with the George P. Blaise trophy for the third largest tarpon caught, 120½ pounds, 55 inches. (11) Steve Collins, of Golden Meadow, won the award for the best junior fisherman. With him is Judge Howard Taylor, of New Orleans, who made the presentation.

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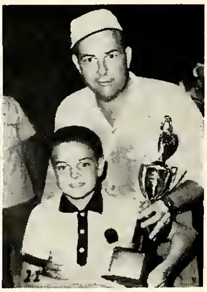
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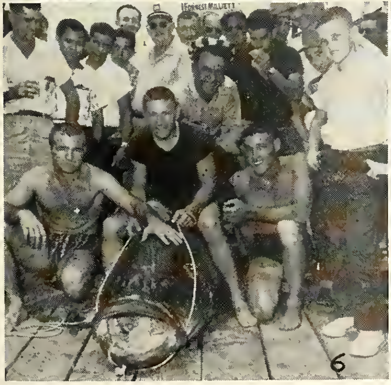
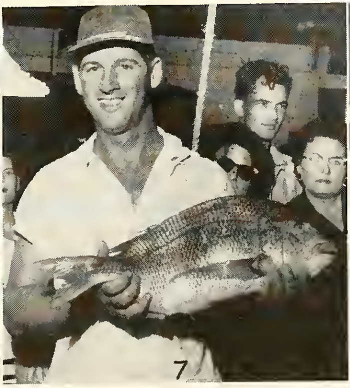
The rodeo attracted many interested visitors including officials of the La. Wild Life & Fisheries Commission. In one of the groups (1) were Chairman E. R. McDonald, Ray Whatley, Mrs. Warren Simon, Mrs. Whatley and Director R. P. Easterly.

(2) Jefferson Parish President presents Mrs. William Cleveland with orchids. (3) Dr. Don Peterson presents orchids to Mrs. Ray Hufft, wife of Major General Hufft, president of the rodeo. (4) Maj. Gen. Hufft welcomes the visitors and opens the trophy awards ceremonies. (5) Dr. Don Peterson presents orchids to Mrs. Urban Wilkinson. (6) Neptune's Devils, (left to right) Lynn Paul Gagnon, Buddie Schiro, and Andrew Pedalahore, capture the skin diving events prize with a 484-pound jewfish. (7) Lionel Pitre, Montegut, took the trophy in the sheepshead class with this 8-pound, 8-ounce whopper. (8) Mrs. Rudolph P. Easterly also receives orchids from Jimmie Arnoult on behalf of the rodeo membership.





Mrs. George Paulat, Baton Rouge, La., 6 lbs., 8 ozs.
J. T. Farrac, Jr., Empire, La., 5 lbs., 7 ozs.
Bonnie Lafont, Golden Meadow, 5 lbs., 4 ozs.
Tripletail:
Mrs. Jimmy Toups, Galiano, 39½ lbs.
(New rodeo record, Steve Collins, Golden Meadow, La., 27 lbs.; Calvin Pelas, Nairn, 22½ lbs.)
Barracuda: (Hook and line class)
C. F. Carter, Buras, 36¾ lbs.
Jewfish: (Hook and line class)
Lou Friedman, Empire, 198 lbs.
Tuna: (bluefin tuna)
Dr. Ardley Hebert, Golden Meadow, 50 lbs.
Manta Ray: (None entered)
Marlin: (Blue marlin)
Robert Flanagan, Jr., New Orleans, 308½ lbs.
Marlin: (White marlin)
Jim Merriwether, Shreveport, La., 66¾ lbs.
Sailfish:
Harry Smith, New Orleans, 70¼ lbs.
Shark:
C. V. Carter, Jr., Buras, 9 feet 10 inches.
Tuna: (yellowfin tuna)
Dr. Peter B. Salatich, New Orleans, 104 lbs.
Cobia:
Jimmy Toups, Galiano, 58½ lbs.
Buddy Pons, New Orleans, 54¼ lbs.
Felix Pitre, Galiano, 41 lbs.
Dolphin:
William J. Scheffler, Gretna, 39½ lbs.
Mrs. Albert C. Steen, Abbeville, 32¾ lbs.
Ernest Thibodaux, Cut Off, 32 lbs.
Jackfish:
S. D. Jastremski, Houma, 32½ lbs.
Gerald LeBlanc, Lafitte, 30 lbs.
Malcolm LeBlanc, Lafitte, 29¾ lbs.
Amberjack:
George Tucker, Dallas, Texas, 83 lbs.
(New record—first year fish has been included.)
Salt Water Catfish:
Calvin Pelas, Nairn, 5 lbs., 5 ozs.
Wahoo:
Ronald J. Jefferson, New Orleans, 51 lbs.
Barracuda: (skin diving)
Jefferson Skin Divers, Jefferson Parish, 36¼ lbs.
Queen Fisherette:
Four way tie: Mrs. Lester Plaisance, Golden Meadow
Sylvia Ann Theriot, Denham Springs
Mrs. George Paulat, Baton Rouge
Mrs. Jimmie Toups, Galliano
Cobia: (skin diving)
Dixie Divers, New Orleans, 45¾ lbs.
Jackfish: (skin diving)
Dick Shoemaker, New Orleans, 27 lbs.
Jewfish: (skin diving)
Neptune's Devils, New Orleans, 484 lbs.
Red Snapper: (skin diving)
Antonini, Callia, Gustin and Pepperone, 20¼ lbs.
Sheepshead: (skin diving)
Robert J. Redmond, Montegut, La., 6 lbs. 2 ozs.
Spadefish: (skin diving)
Henry Cook, New Orleans, 5 lbs. 10 ozs.
Best all-round fisherman:
Calvin Pelas of Nairn, La.
Grand Entrance Prize: (1959 Ford automobile)
E. J. Lirette, of New Orleans.

Enforcement Personnel Briefed on Civil Defense Program

The law enforcement division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission has completed its regular semi-annual district inspection of equipment and a feature at the meetings held throughout the state was a program of briefings given by the Louisiana Civil Defense agency where motion pictures explaining the civil defense program were shown.

Every Louisiana State agency has been given a civil defense job, B. C. Dahlen, enforcement division agent of New Orleans, who presided at the meetings, said.

The Civil Defense phase of the program was conducted by Lewis Parrish, New Orleans, state Civil Defense training and education officer, with the assistance of David Lanser, assistant training and education officer, and Garber Higginbotham, Baton Rouge, Civil Defense liaison representative.

Participation of state agences in Civil Defense operations is in accordance with Louisiana law which says that all agencies of the state and its political subdivisions are a part of the Civil Defense organization, said Parrish. He said that the law also makes Civil Defense a regular governmental operation at all levels.

Noting the outstanding accomplishments of the Wild Life and Fisheries department in the natural disasters which have hit Louisiana during the past few years, the training and education officer reviewed resources of the department. He said that the statewide organization offers excellent law enforcement, transportation, supply, radiological defense and communications for the Civil Defense program.

"An example of how government and private enterprise have cooperated in the Civil Defense effort," said Parrish, "is the emergency hospital program. Some 25 federal Civil Defense packaged hospitals have been obtained by state Civil Defense and the state department of hospitals for storage at existing hospitals outside of the target areas. As a result of this program aided greatly by the cooperation of the Louisiana hospital association and local government, Tallulah and Monroe are among the areas which already have stored 17 of the 100-bed emergency facilities."

The cooperation of Wild Life and Fisheries in allocating time for the Civil Defense briefings at various district meetings of the organizations was discussed by Parrish. He said that Wild Life and Fisheries director Rudolph P. Easterly and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Hufft, state Civil Defense director, made the orientation sessions possible.

Is There An Ideal Tackle Box?

Colonel Bill Hornsey

FROM RAGS TO riches! That's the story of tackle boxes.

Time was when a Prince Albert can full of hooks, sinkers and a mess of line was all a feller needed. Not so today. It's gotta be something fancy and cost a lot of dough. A guy's got a reputation to uphold. He's a fisherman! He needs fancy stuff—at least a coupla rods in shiny aluminum cases and a pile of plugs and gadgets.

Did you ever see a fishless fisherman pull up along side a feller with a full stringer and hear the usual question, "What didja ketch'em on?" And the usual smug answer, "Caught'em on this little baby!" The action which follows is also typical. A frantic search is made for the magic lure. Then in a pleading voice, "You wouldn't have another one of those plugs would ya?" "Nope. Sorry ol' man—sure don't." Muttering under his breath and vowing never to be caught short again, the "ol' man" hies off to his favorite store and lays in a supply of sure-fire plugs—and a larger box to hold them.

Now, this brings us to the main point of our discussion. What is the ideal tackle box?

First place, what does a fisherman want in a tackle box? He is easy to please on most things but when it comes to this particular item, that's when we get into deep water. They are too big or too little, too heavy or too light, or too this or too that. Most all agree that to be a good one it should carry all the gear that might be needed on a trip. Trouble is, who can anticipate what will be needed? The inevitable conclusion then—carry enough so there will be no regrets.

Is there an ideal tackle box? There is one called "The Texan," which may not be ideal for every fisherman, but those who want a box that holds everything—Brother! This is it.

This particular rig measures 17½″ high, 10¼″ wide and 17½″ long. There are 12 trays, 10 for lures and

(Continued on page 28)

AS WE SEE IT

In a land founded upon passionate desire for freedom, rules and regulations governing individual actions are always looked upon with askance, regardless of how necessary they may be for the general welfare. This is particularly true among a great many hunters and anglers.

But there is much more to sportsmanship than the mere practice of to-the-letter obedience to the game laws. A man may never violate a game law or break a club rule and still not be a real sportsman, for he may be refraining from doing these things because he has to, not because he wants to. Real sportsmanship cannot be defined or bounded by rules. It is imbedded in an inherent sense of fair play, which one may or may not possess. No rules can plant it in the inner man, but unless the sense of fair play is possessed and its dictates followed, no man can rightfully wear the laurel of true sportsmanship.

There are certain maxims, however, that are worthy of constant remembrance, lest we carelessly or thoughtlessly stray from proper field behavior. They are not rules, just reminders. As they run the gamut of the alphabet, let's call them ABC's for sportsmen. They're worth looking over. Here they are:

Always practice safe gunhandling.
Be considerate of the landowner. You are his guest.
Conduct yourself as a SPORTSMAN should.
Don't be a game-hog.
Educate youth in the principles of sportsmanship.
Favor the fellow who is hunting with you.
Give wildlife a break. Work for its conservation.
Have the location of your hunting partner always in mind.
Influence others to hunt safely.
Join the Federation.
Keep that gun muzzle elevated.
Leave some game for seed stock.
Make sure of your target before you shoot.
Never leave a cripple to go to waste.
Obey the game and fish laws to the letter.
Put yourself in the other fellow's place. Treat him accordingly.
Quit harping about game shortages and do something about it.
Retrieve every piece of game you knock down.
Share your game bag with the farmer.
Take a boy, other than your own, hunting or fishing.
Unite your fellow sportsmen to provide better hunting and fishing.
Value, and protect, your privilege to own and bear firearms.
Work for all sound game management measures.
X may mark the spot if you mix gunpowder and alcohol.
Young America's future field sports depends on You.
Zeal in game restoration activities will pay big dividends.

OUACHITA PARISH CITIZENS VOTE TO BUY CHENIERE LAKE

Ouachita Parish citizens voted approximately 5 to 1 in favor of a half-mill tax to buy the 3,289 acre Cheniere Lake from the Dixie Lumber Company. The lake located outside West Monroe will provide public fishing, boating, picnicing and in addition a possible future water supply. We take this opportunity to congratulate the voters of Ouachita Parish for the efficacy and wisdom of supporting this bond issue and commend all the individuals and groups that worked so untiringly to make this dream public property.

IBERIA FISHING RODEO—OCTOBER 16-18

Some $4,500.00 worth of prizes will be offered when the Iberia Parish Rod and Gun Club stages its 8th annual fishing rodeo on October 16, 17, 18, at Cypremort Point. This was revealed at a recent planning meeting by E. J. Viator, Rodeo Chairman, as final rodeo planning phases neared completion.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN CONSERVATION AVAILABLE

The National and Louisiana Wildlife Federations offer a number of Scholarships and Fellowships to qualified individuals working in the field of conservation or conservation education. Activities that might be appropriate include:

Teacher Training
Radio and Television
Scouting and Conservation
Curricular Problems
Farmer—Sportsmen Relationship
Conservation Workshop Techniques
Textbook Development
Journalism
State Programs

An applicant need not necessarily be enrolled at an institution of higher learning if his (or her) project or proposal has merit in the cause of conservation.

JAMES HOPKINS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATES, ...up to $ 500.00.
GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS, ...up to $1,000.00.
POST GRADUATE OR SPECIAL STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS....up to $1,000.00.

Undergraduates are not expected to submit a project. We suggest a preliminary discussion with The Dean of your College.

Fellowships will underwrite work in conservation or related fields (see examples above), however grants will not be restricted to the categories listed, which are offered merely as a guide to the prospective applicant. If in doubt as to the suitability of your project or proposal, write to the National Wildlife Federation for further information. Fellowship funds may be used for any normal expense connected with the project or study.

Since enrollment at an institution of higher learning is not required, special (non-academic) students may also apply for grants up to $1,000.00.

Application blanks and further information may be obtained from: Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation, 232 Carroll St., N.W., Washington 12, D.C.

Applicants are not required, but are requested to file a copy of their application with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Box 8488, LSU Station, Baton Rouge.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ENDORSES ADDITIONAL PESTICIDE RESEARCH

The Department of the Interior has endorsed federal legislation which would greatly expand the scope and value of research now being conducted to determine the effect of pesticides upon fish and wildlife. The legislation is embodied in H.R. 5813, by Congressman Lee Metcalf (Mont.), and S. 1575, by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (Wash.).

Investigations made under existing legislation clearly indicate a problem of much greater magnitude than originally contemplated and show that the existing authorization, $280,000 annually, is wholly inadequate, the U. S. Interior Department report shows.

In letters to Chairman Magnuson, of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and to Chairman Herbert Co. Bonner, of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Assistant Interior Secretary Ross L. Leffler cited known harmful effects of current uses of pesticides on fish and wildlife. Four major objectives of the research program are:

1. To determine the acute and chronic toxicities of some 200 basic chemicals now on the market, plus the many others in various stages of development.
2. To conduct chemical analyses of plant and animal tissue to determine the presence of pesticide residues, develop diagnostic procedures for determining suspected poisonings and measure the degree and duration of toxic conditions in fish and wildlife habitats.
3. To carry out field appraisals of immediate and long-range effects of pest control operations upon fish and wildlife populations.
4. To facilitate the compilation and dissemination of data from research studies so that chemists, entomologists and others may apply such knowledge in the development of new pest control materials, formulations and techniques of application to minimize hazards to desirable forms of animal life.

Assistant Secretary Leffler pointed out that the use of pesticide chemicals has mushroomed to the point where one-sixth of all croplands and millions of acres of forests, rangelands and marshlands now are being treated. He referred to damage to food chain organisms such as earthworms, which concentrate the persistent poisons in their bodies, and ultimately to desirable birds and aquatic creatures, including seafoods.

The proposed legislation would raise the pesticide research authorization from the present $280,000 annually to $2,565,000 but the Interior Department proposes no specific amount. Assistant Secretary Leffler recommended that the research program be permitted to expand on a logical and scientific basis, with funds being requested from and granted by The Congress as required by the circumstances and in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

MEDICAL RESEARCH BULLETIN FEATURES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

"Biological Research In Conservation" is the special theme of The Bulletin For Medical Research. Feature articles on aspects of biological research have been prepared by prominent scientist-conservationists.

In editorial comment on the special theme, the Bulletin sagely remarks: "Conservation scientists are troubled even more than most scientists with popular nonsense. They are, of course, dealing with matters of public policy. Furthermore, conservation scientists deal with matters on which there are long-established prejudices. . . . We publish this symposium with the hope that it might advance the day when conservation policy stems directly from the best scientific knowledge—when sportsmen, farmers, and citizens everywhere understand and appreciate the precious insight of the conservation scientist as they now are beginning to appreciate the creative genius of chemists, physicists, and medical scientists."

The writers and their special symposium topics are Arthur B. Meyer, Conservation As A Profession; Arnold L. Nelson, The Patuxent Research Refuge; Paul E. Thompson, Fishery Research and Conservation; Carlton M. Herman, The Field of Wildlife Diseases; and Durward L. Allen, Conservation Biology—Facts and Fallacies.

Cameron Rodeo Tops in Tarpon

Red Kohnke

IT'S ALL OVER now, even the shouting, but the talk still holds on. And, I'm sure, you'll find that most of the talkers agree on at least one thing, the 1959 annual Southwest Louisiana Deep Sea Fishing rodeo off Cameron was a thriller.

Held the weekend of July 3, 4, and 5, the sportsmen leaving the little Gulf coast town of Cameron and venturing into the Gulf found the fighting tarpon awaiting, ready to match their skill. Hundreds of strikes were reported but the silver kings ran better than true to their form of being the toughest of fish to land. The rodeo fishermen brought back eight of them to the judges headquarters.

The top tarpon fell victim to the angling skill of Mrs. C. M. Long of Lake Charles. It weighed in at 104.8 pounds and also earned her the title of rodeo "Outstanding Deep Sea Angler."

Mrs. A. W. Noland and her 58-pound tarpon, good for third place in the ladies division.

Mrs. C. M. Long's 104.8-pound tarpon, the top fish in its class in the 1959 Southwest Louisiana Deep Sea Fishing rodeo. Mrs. Long was also named the Deep Sea Outstanding Angler.

On the opening day of the rodeo, the silver kings were seen just off shore swarming and rolling but few sportsmen could manage to get a strike. School after school of pogey fish were sighted and the tarpon were tearing them up, knocking them high into the air when they slashed through the schools. Boat after boat trolled everything but the fishermen themselves through the schools but the tarpon didn't seem interested. They just kept after the small pogey fish.

However, on the second day of the rodeo, the picture changed just before noon. The tarpon provided the spark for the fishing contest and the anglers quickly fanned it into a bright flame. The tarpon started hitting large Tony Accetta No. 21 silver spoons and the race was on with strike after strike reported.

Listening in to the boat captains reporting over their short wave marine radios, it was not uncommon to have more than one boat reporting tarpon strikes and multiple strikes at the same time. The silver kings were everywhere and the ones that struck gave the rodeo fishermen a run for their money.

On one boat, the Formerlin of Lake Charles, five participants averaged one strike every 15 minutes between noon and 4 p.m. At least 14 of the tarpon were hooked momentarily making one or more spectacular leaps before tossing out the Tony Accetta spoons. One of the tarpon was hooked and worked for one hour but when brought close aboard, the fish's lip broke releasing the spoon. Like most of the big ones, he got away.

At the close of the contest, records showed that eight tarpon, including Mrs. Long's top fish, were landed and weighed in with the judges. With 462 registered participants, this averaged out one tarpon landed for every 57 anglers, considered a pretty good record for an off shore rodeo.

The second place tarpon was boated by Kenneth

George W. McNess, rodeo president, and his 52.8-pound sailfish, the only one taken during the three-day rodeo early in July off Cameron, La.

Gafford of Lake Charles. It weighed 92 pounds. The third place tarpon was brought in by Kamiel Khoury, Lake Charles, and it weighed 66 pounds. Khoury also landed a second silver king weighing 55.8 pounds.

A highlight of the opening day of the rodeo was club President George McNess' sailfish, the only one landed during the rodeo. It weighed 52.8 pounds and captured much of the event's early interest. Last year, McNess' wife, Mary, landed a prize winning sailfish.

Looking back now on the weekend of fishing off Cameron, it would have been unreasonable to have wanted better conditions. The fishing was better than average, the weather was pleasant and the arrangements handled by the people of Cameron made it worthwhile just being down there for the weekend.

The people of Cameron really went all out this year and through the work of various committees, provided lodging, a carnival for the children, street dances, the annual shrimp boil, a fish fry, a crab boil and two days of entertainment for those staying ashore.

DEEP SEA DIVISION

(NOTE: First place fish only listed)

TARPON: Mrs. C. M. Long, 104.8 pounds
SAILFISH: George McNess, 52.8 pounds
COBIA: Billy Castle, 43 pounds
JACKFISH: Mrs. Vincent Abate, 24.8 pounds
BARRACUDA: G. T. Howard, 27.8 pounds
KING MACKEREL: Edward L. Shaheen, 20 pounds
BONITO: Anne Rives, 9.8 pounds
SPANISH MACKEREL: Dave Miller, 4.1 pounds
DOLPHIN: Mrs. C. L. Briggs, 3.9 pounds
BLUEFISH: Dr. J. B. Martin, 3.6 pounds

INLAND WATERS DIVISION

(First place fish only)

SPECKLED TROUT: Major J. E. Spurgin, 5 pounds
REDFSH: Ted Parson, 13.12 pounds
SALTWATER DRUM: Jerry Wyble, 3.14 pounds
FLOUNDER: S. C. Kent, 4.9 pounds
GAFFTOP CATFISH: Willie Reeds, 6 pounds
SHEEPSHEAD: Larry Fontenot, 2.8 pounds.

OAK MAST BOON TO WILDLIFE

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much publicity. Usually sportsmen and other groups interested in wildlife have frowned on the act of removing hardwoods from a pine stand. However, it should be pointed out that sound forest management often requires the removal of undesirable trees. The forester and landowner practicing T. S. I. realize this. Economic factors should and often do determine when, where, and how much T. S. I. is conducted. Potential merchantable hardwoods wherever they occur are becoming more valuable for various wood products. These trees left in the stand will be beneficial to both the wildlife and forest industry.

In the hill sections of Louisiana the best squirrel range is usually found along the stream bottoms. These are the areas where T. S. I. practices should be at a minimum; in fact, it is better to leave all hardwoods on these sites unless the operation is for the purpose of improving the hardwood stand.

Ask any squirrel hunter where he goes to look for his game. He will quickly tell you about some pin oak flat or oak ridge. Of course, beech trees are an ideal place to find squirrels when the mast is present. Several authorities on the squirrel have found hunting success to be low the year following a poor mast crop.

Quail—Most any quail hunter can tell of unsuccessful hunts he made because the birds were in the woods. Since acorns are a preferred food of the bobwhite quail, it readily seeks them, and makes use of oak mast as long as it is available.

Much has been written about food habits of the quail. Goodrum and Reid examined over 6,000 crops during an eight year period. The crops were collected from Louisiana and East Texas during the period from October through February of each year. Of the total volume of food consumed during this period, 15.8 per cent was acorns. They determined by calculation, the average consumption was 4.7 acorns or 5.9 grams of air-dry matter per bird daily.

Some people contend that bobwhites don't eat whole acorns; that is, the acorns must be broken up first by some other type animal such as squirrels or bluejays before quail will consume them. This contention is incorrect. Robert Murry, game biologist in charge of quail research for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission says that smaller acorns are frequently consumed whole. While this is more commonly found with post oak, willow oak, and water oak acorns, even whole live oak acorns above average in size have been found in quail crops. He further states that acorn fragments found in quail do not necessarily result from the wasteful feeding habits of other animals, since quail are definitely known to hull blackjack, water and southern red oak acorns for themselves. It seems possible that quail may be able to, without any help, utilize most any acorn that falls to the ground.

Wild Turkey—The population of this big game bird can be increased in Louisiana with proper management. In fact, it is now on the increase in some areas; in others it has remained more or less static. Yet, there is the third type area where all indications point to a decline in the turkey population over the past several years due mainly to changing habitat conditions through advanced methods of farming and forestry. In the field of forest management slight changes in present practices may benefit the turkey range. It becomes apparent why information on oak mast is valuable since acorns are a preferred food of the wild turkey.

Studies in other states on the turkey's feeding habits support the extensive use of acorns by this game bird.

Waterfowl—Several kinds of ducks use acorns in their diet, when the mast is available. Mallards and wood ducks are the two most commonly recognized users of this food. Just about any time feeding ducks are found in swamps it is due to a plentiful supply of acorns. Many ducks are harvested annually in this state along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya floodplains where pin oak and water oak flats are common.

In conclusion, economically sound forestry is here to stay. In it there can be a place for many forms of wildlife. How abundant some of the more desirable wildlife species will be in the forest of tomorrow is largely dependent on our ability to gather accurate answers regarding many facets of the forest-game relationship problem. To this end the present mast study is dedicated.

MANAGE WETLANDS

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half to one inch deep, or broadcast and covered with a harrow. Complete planning and planting information can be obtained from any Soil Conservation Service office.

The ability of an area to *attract* ducks depends on ponded water. Its ability to *hold* ducks *depends on the food supply*. It has been determined that one duck requires about 50 pounds of seed to satisfy his needs during his winter stay in the southland. At this rate, one acre of land properly managed, below a farm pond, in the woods, or in a rice field, can be managed so as to provide feed for 30 or 40 ducks all winter. By feeding lots of ducks and harvesting a small percentage of what you feed, the end result will be expanded habitat with satisfied hunters at home and well fed waterfowl returning to the mating grounds up north.

PILOT CRAWFISH FARM

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tection against summer heat and all manner of natural enemies. While in these tunnels, the females lay their eggs, so the water level must be lowered at this time to accommodate them. Towards the end of summer, when the eggs are about to hatch, the water level will be raised once more. Adult crawfish are tough and unsavory during the summer, so the harvest must be begun as early in the year as commercial sizes are available, and discontinued about the first of July.

"Supplemental feeding will consist of waste collected locally from restaurants and fish dealers. As this food is decomposable, it must be placed in spots, so as not to reduce the oxygen levels over the entire pond. A fertilization program will be recommended, using a high calcium-phosphate fertilizer," Viosca said.

TACKLE BOX

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two other trays which can be used for lures or more appropriately for tools, etc. Using one lure per compartment, we arrive at a total of 110 for 10 trays or about 130 if you use all twelve trays for lures. The bottom section measures 6″ deep, enough space for what-have-you. With a flip of the hands, all 12 trays spread out 54″ wide before you, each plug visible and resting in its own cork lined, aluminum compartment. It closes as easily as it opens.

Now, let's examine one that has been in use for five hard years. The aluminum material shows some wear—a little brown paint rubbed off here and there. It has kept its contents dry through many a hard rain. A plastic cover is used for extra protection. Its grip lock keeps it closed tightly. It has never dumped the contents like some boxes do. Open her up! There is not one lure to a compartment, but in about half of them are two or more. The two utility trays have tools, extra spark plugs, plug wrench, pliers, thermometer, a roll of files, screwdriver, extra hooks, swivels, leader clippers, leaders, sinkers, compass, and a few odds and ends, plus a box of aspirin. In the lower compartment are four reels, extra spools of line, first aid kit, snake bite kit, Sea and Ski Lotion, extra parts for reels, oil, lighter fluid, extra boxed lures, oil skin rain hat, poncho, stringers, large scales, mosquito dope, shear pins, flashlight, steel tape for measuring fish, and a pile of other stuff that is needed at one time or the other—and there is room for more. What does all this weigh? Nope! She won't sink a boat! Weighs only about 35 pounds.

FISH COOKERY FILM AVAILABLE

Nine American fish "cook-outs", filmed to reflect the heritage and tradition of the areas portrayed, are shown in a new sound-color, 16 mm. film just released by the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

The film is designed to intrigue those who cook outdoors—either in the open spaces or in their own backyards.

The picture starts with a colorful Indian salmon barbecue on Neah Bay, Washington, and features salmon being caught and cooked in the manner typical of the days when the northwest was young. This method can be adapted for use in one's own backyard.

Then there is the Carolina "pink bark stew" cooked in a bayou setting, and a Florida mullet smoke, showing the fish caught near Stuart and Salerno in Martin County and smoked on a fashionable patio in Miami; not to forget the famous shrimp boil at Morgan City, Louisiana, with its "do-it-yourself" tips.

Of course, there is the Maine lobster boil—this one featuring colorful scenes at the famous Rockland Seafood Festival, where even persons with small appetites get two lobsters and where everyone has fun.

Another sequence is taken from the other side of the country—a real New England clambake at Gloucester, Massachusetts—where clambakes have been the vogue since the days of the colonies.

How to Build A Squirrel Den Box

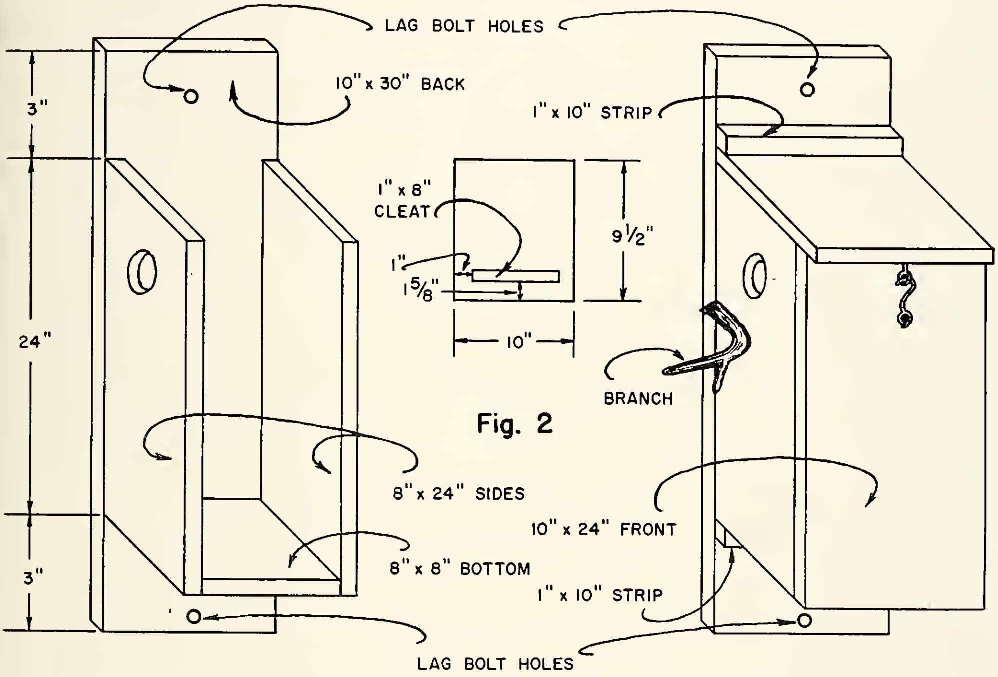

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Instructions for Assembling Squirrel Den Box

This squirrel den box must be constructed as shown and each piece used in its proper place. This finished den is 10″ square and is started as shown in Fig. No. 1, using the pieces indicated. The entrance hole in the side must be at the top. The front is then nailed to complete the box as shown in Fig. No. 3. The 1x1x8″ cleat is then nailed to the top piece using the dimensions shown in Fig. No. 2. Place the top in position on the den with the cleat down and towards the front. The hook & eye latch is placed at the front to secure the top as shown in Fig. No. 3. A small piece of branch, (not furnished) is to be nailed below the entrance for use by the squirrel as a step, etc. The two 4″ lag screws are to be used to fasten the den to the tree at the top and bottom using the holes drilled for that purpose. The use of lag screws permits backing off to compensate for tree growth.

MRS RUTH CAMPBELL,
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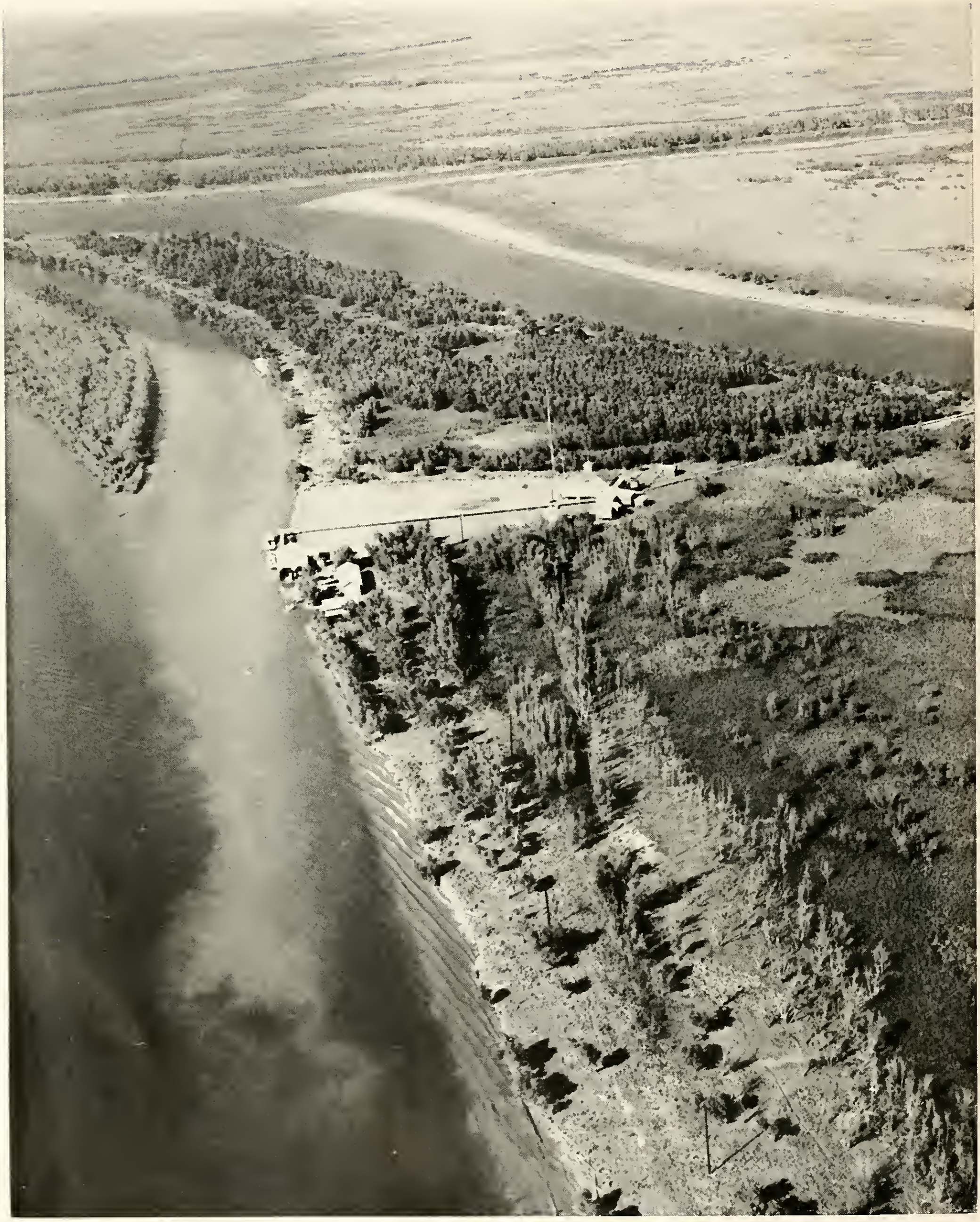

Aerial View of Pass-A-Loutre Headquarters